

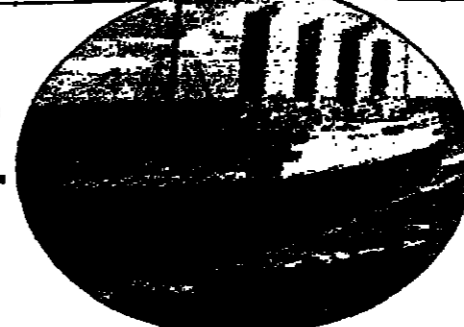
AFTERSHOCK FROM ASIA William Rees-Mogg PAGE 18



THE BOOK THAT STUNNED THE LITERARY WORLD IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA Hughes on Plath's joy and sorrow PAGE 17



TITANIC TOUCHES THE SOUL Geoff Brown's verdict PAGE 33



BEST FOR JOBS WANTED Director 100K Manager 60K Consultant 35K Graduate 17K 40-PAGE DOUBLE SECTION

Tapes tell of affair with woman, 21

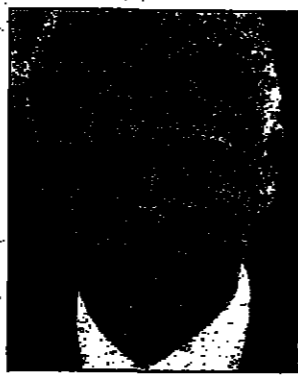
Clinton faces perjury and sex inquiry

BY BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A POTENTIALLY devastating investigation was launched yesterday into whether President Clinton urged a 24-year-old trainee to lie under oath in denying that she had an affair with him.

His investigators had wired the White House aide Linda Tripp to record her conversations with Ms Lewinsky who spoke "graphically" about a year-and-a-half long affair with Mr Clinton starting when she was 21.

Mr Clinton also denied having any "improper relationship" with Ms Lewinsky



Clinton: outraged denial of affair



Starr: gave judges permission for inquiry

and said that he was outraged by the charges, which have emerged only days after he was forced to give sworn testimony in the Paula Jones case.

Lewinsky's lawyer said that she had already seen Mr Starr's investigators in Washington - although she had not been interviewed formally.

The most serious threat to Mr Clinton is the charge of incitement to commit perjury, rather than the allegations of a sexual relationship.

Mr Starr is also investigating whether the President used his close friend and adviser Vernon Jordan as an intermediary to discuss Ms Lewinsky's testimony with her.

If it were proved that the President was instrumental in instructing a witness to lie to investigators, Congress would consider starting impeachment proceedings.

And Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said: "He's never had any improper relationship with this woman. He's made it clear from the beginning that he wants people to tell the truth in all matters."



Monica Lewinsky, now 24, was recorded claiming that she and the President were lovers for a year and a half

Tit-for-tat killing as IRA rejects talks

BY MARTIN FLETCHER CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland's fragile peace process was rocked again last night when the IRA leadership declared the talks in crisis and the vicious new spiral of tit-for-tat killings claimed yet another Catholic victim.

The IRA leadership issued a statement rejecting the British and Irish Governments' new blueprint for Northern Ireland's future, calling it "a pro-Unionist document" that offered no basis for a lasting settlement and had created "a crisis in the peace process".

The republican terrorist group accused the Government of re-militarisation and stalling on confidence-building and said yet another Prime Minister - Tony Blair - had bowed to the "Orange card".

As the statement was being transmitted to the BBC shortly after 5pm the IRA ceasefire was further strained by the shooting of a 55-year-old Catholic man in the loyalist Donegal Road area near Belfast's city centre.

Allason's libel action fails

Rupert Allason, the spy writer and former Tory MP, who sued the makers of the television satire Have I Got News For You, is facing a £50,000 legal bill after he lost the action.

Thinking big

A couple have built their own home in East Sussex. Nothing unusual in that, except that this one has a dungeon, a minstrel's gallery and a drawbridge.

- TV & RADIO 42.43 WEATHER 22 CROSSWORDS 22.44 LETTERS 19 GIBBS' GAMES 21 REES-MOGG 18 AIKEN 32.35 CHESS & BRIDGE 40 COURT & SOCIAL 20 SPORTS 38-42, 44 BODY & MIND 16 BOOKS 36, 37

Buying The Times overseas... Austria Sch 50; Belgium B 75; Canada Cdn \$ 22; Cyprus Cyp 20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar Gp 90p; Greece Gr 650; Netherlands f 1.50; Italy L 4.500; Luxembourg Lfr 25.00; Macedonia M 240; Malta Mta 450; Monaco Mfr 30.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Portugal Esc 200; Spain Ptas 225; Sweden Skr 24.00; Switzerland S Fr 5.00; Tunisia Dln 3.200; USA \$ 35.00.

Judges move to restore confidence in sentencing

BY FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES are to spell out for the first time how long criminals must serve in jail under an initiative today to restore confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Lord Chief Justice will tell all judges, by means of a statement delivered in court and on the Internet, that from now on they must explain what their jail sentences mean in practice.

At present, judges simply state the jail term without explaining that the defendant will usually be released well before the end of the sentence.

"soft" on sentencing when offenders are released. From now on, judges will make clear that an offender sentenced to four years, for example, serves two years in custody. The rest is suspended and the offender conditionally released. But if he or she reoffends, he can be recalled to



Not twelve! Not eleven! No, we've knocked it down to an incredible ten years!

serve the rest of the sentence plus any new penalty. With more serious offences (four years or more) or discretionary life sentences, an offender is not considered by the Parole Board until half the time has been served in custody; and not usually released until two thirds of the sentence is served. The rest of the sentence is suspended, but the offender may be recalled if he reoffends.

The move, which has the backing of the Government, is aimed at ending public confusion over sentencing. Judges and ministers also hope it will boost support for the justice system after Home Office research found widespread misconceptions about sentences that were undermining public confidence.

Beckett's flat costs £100,000 to service

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET BECKETT last night came under fire from the Tories for service bills of nearly £100,000 on her "grace and favour" one-bedroom flat in Admiralty House.

An "amazed" John Redwood, shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "Most people would expect to buy a house or flat for the annual charge for Margaret Beckett's heating, lighting and cleaning. The Government should start getting its priorities right. This is money which could be spent on hospitals, not ministers' accommodation."

The Department of Trade and Industry said last night that Mrs Beckett's service charges were set by the Cabinet Office. They included gas, electricity, utilities, central heating, guarding and security, maintenance of common parts and external decoration.

It was pointed out that her flat was in a 300-year-old building where other Cabinet Ministers, including John Prescott and George Robertson, also had accommodation. Mrs Beckett's flat had not been used for three years, but was once occupied by Sir Leon Brittan, now an EC Commissioner. Michael Portillo and Malcolm Rifkind also had flats in Admiralty House when Cabinet Ministers.

Phoney Hague fails to entrap wary Blair

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHEN the flat Yorkshire monotone said "Inlow Tony", Mr Blair knew he had both a hoaxer and an opportunity.

An impersonator managed to trick his way past the switchboard of Number 10 yesterday but as soon as he talked to the Prime Minister he gave the game away. For while Mr Blair has invited William Hague to "call me Tony", the leader of the Opposition always addresses him formally.

give him an amusing story with which to regale a surprised Commons. The prankster was Steve Penk, a DJ with London's Capital Radio who has built a reputation for impersonating famous voices.

In a moment of delicious irony she said: "Oh you didn't sound like yourself" but added: "I'm sorry, we do

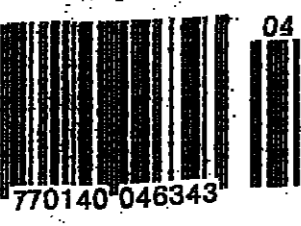
get a lot of imposters you see." "Oh well, I can well imagine we get quite a few of the same at our office," said Penk, to which the secretary replied: "You're better now, you sound normal now, hold on..."

At this point Mr Blair started to laugh. "It's quite a good imitation," The Prime Minister was then heard to say: "I'm just trying to work out who it is really. Well, of course, it's... you've done very well to get through the network, you must have taken them in very well on the switchboard."

Penk said: "Well no, all it was I was talking to John Prescott the other day and you know that Cher exercise video that you were interested in having? We went to the car boot sale [Blair laughing in the background] me and FRon and managed to find it and so

Continued on page 2, col 5

OTBALL 40 prepares for Stevenson's 11 letter day... Spectations and arms used as ns return... COULD YOU GET TEN SOLDIERS ACROSS AFRICA IN JUST TEN ACROSS?



9 770140 046343

direct 0345 900 900 Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. The July 1997 Budget confirmed that the tax free status of PEPs will continue until 6 April 1999 after which it will be subject to statutory change. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Couple make history building £1m castle



John and Jo Mew at Braylsham Castle, which was inspired by the moated manor houses of Sussex and Kent; a drawbridge offers the only contact with the mainland and some walls have been created authentically lop-sided

For some people DIY is making a shelf, two enthusiasts went further, says Robin Young

A COUPLE inspired by their love of ancient buildings have built themselves a reproduction castle, which could be worth £1 million.

John Mew, an orthodontist, and his wife, Jo, of Mayfield, East Sussex, spent five and a half years constructing their new home, Braylsham Castle, which faithfully replicates the style of moated manor houses in Sussex and Kent.

Mr Mew, who had previously restored an old house and added a period wing to his present home, estimates that he and his wife spent about £330,000 on the castle, "not allowing for the countless hours of labour".

Among the "period" features are a dungeon, a minstrel's gallery, secret passageways between rooms, and a drawbridge linking the building to the mainland.

The great hall is a miniature version of Westminster Hall, with a hammerbeam roof.

Mr Mew said yesterday: "Some people may think I'm an eccentric old fool, but I'm a doer with ideas. I'm sure people thought the castle would never materialise, but it has and I am thrilled with it."

Mr Mew added: "In some ways it is just a six-bedroom house with no neighbours for miles, but in another way it is a romantic castle with everything you would expect of a historic home."

The couple had to dam a river and clear a valley before they could even start building work. It took two years to move 12,000 tonnes of earth.

He said: "We were influenced in our choice of site by Leeds Castle and the style of the building is taken from Scotney Castle, Ightham Mote and Hever, all of which have similar histories."

The original halls were open structures with a central fireplace and no chimney, but just a hole in the roof. Then in the 13th century they built stone keeps with a spiral staircase as the only means of access to upstairs accommodation. In the 16th century



Beams were reclaimed from a ruined wood

they added timber-frame accommodation blocks to provide more space and comfort."

After jotting down some rough sketches more than six years ago, Mr Mew completed his designs for the castle with help from an architect, Stephen Langer, who also produced drawings to planning application standards.

Before they could start the Mews had to overcome local planners' vehement objections that they were proposing to build in an area of outstanding natural beauty where no building had ever stood.

They accomplished that by commissioning an artist's impression of the proposed castle from a local artist, George Hawkins. Mr Mew said: "He did such a beautiful picture that the planning committee members fell in love with it and overruled their officers' objections."

Mrs Mew bought her husband a secondhand bulldozer tractor as a birthday present, to help him with the clearing. She said: "I was the gofer and general assistant, though I can do plastering or man a cement mixer."

The mixture of features spanning hundreds of years stretched Mr Mew's abilities as a craftsman. He said: "I consider myself not a bad carpenter, but this project certainly tested me. I learnt

lots of ancient skills which were wholly new to me, such as making stained glass windows and carving in stone. I made my own cherubs and lions to decorate the wall."

He and his wife also made all 80 of the stone steps in the keep's spiral staircase.

He said: "I was quoted a price of £300 for each step, so it would have been an enormous bill. So I made my own by making a mould."

When even Mr Mew's resourcefulness was stretched so far, the couple hired expert help, and hunted for parts of demolished churches and oak beams in builders' yards for their great hall.

The castle has its own spring and electricity generator, making the building self-sufficient. The timber-frame section, constructed with timber from oak trees felled in the 1987 storm, has even been created lop-sided, with one end a foot lower than the other and on one corner the wall leans out over the water.

"You cannot believe how unimaginative people are," Mr Mew said yesterday. "Everybody knows that a lop-sided building looks more quaint and charming, but if you want to build one they think you must be mad."

Mr and Mrs Mew are now preparing to move into their new home from a mill, which they intend to let.

Mr Mew said yesterday: "We are certainly trying to keep the interior in a period style, but it not easy to get an antique computer."

Standing at the top of the tower of Braylsham Castle, Mr Mew said yesterday that his labour of love had been inspired by his interest in old buildings — and why they are thought more beautiful and exciting to live in than new ones.

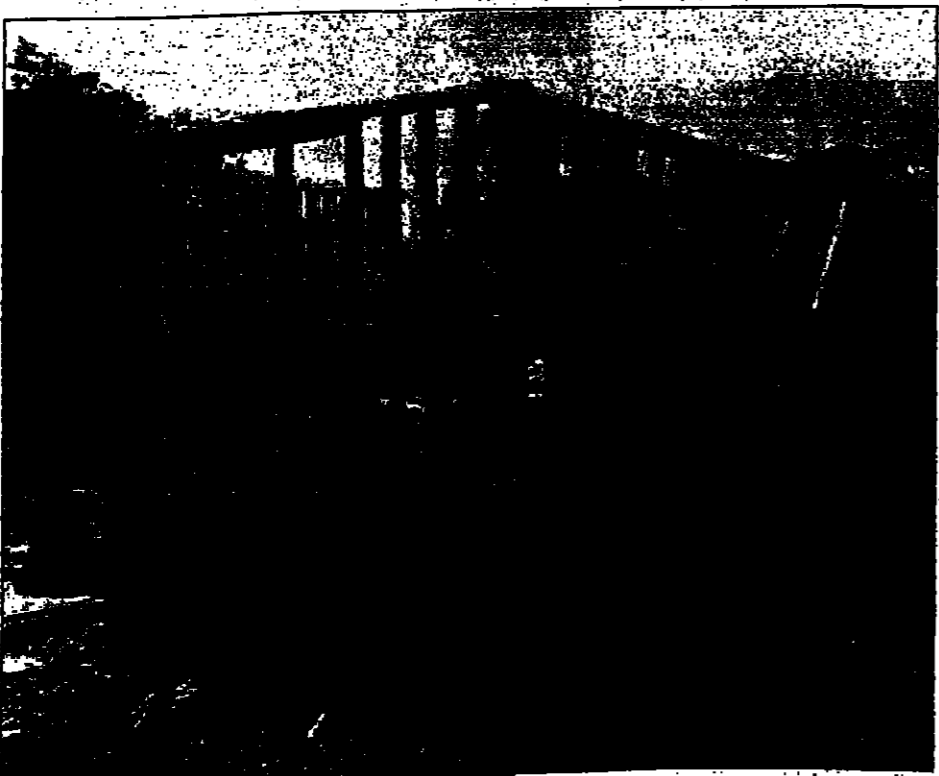
"Why is it that a castle set on an island in the countryside has such an appealing image?" he mused. "Building the castle was in many ways an experiment in finding the answer to that question."

"THE FIRST GREAT FILM OF 1998 ...in Stuart Townsend it has the perfect anti-hero, an actor with the effortless charisma of a young De Niro"



resurrection man

january 30



The castle under construction: work took the couple five and a half years

January 22 1998
NEWS IN BRIEF
killer gets legal aid
sue over treatment
meningitis death
book's tour
judge loves car
near murder
hauffeur
Diana cost
editor
one parcel
tax calls

Have I got a £50,000 bill for you, Allason

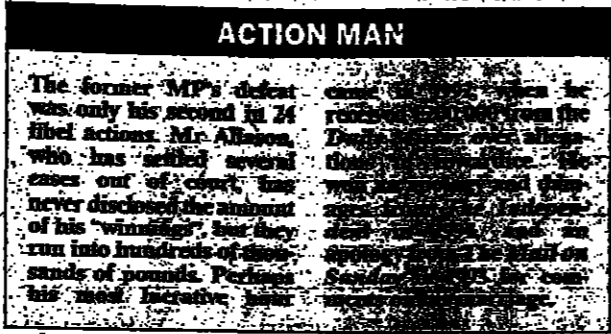
By Peter Foster

RUPERT ALLASON, the spy writer and litigious former Tory MP who sued the makers of the television satire *Have I Got News For You* for calling him a "conviving little shir" was facing a £50,000 legal bill yesterday after he lost his libel action.

Despite calling his elderly mother to give evidence about the distress the remark had caused, Mr Allason, who represented himself throughout the three-day trial, was unable to convince a jury that the words were defamatory.

During the trial, lawyers for BBC Worldwide, publishers of *Have I Got News For You*, the book in which the remark was made, and co-defendants with Hat Trick Productions, suggested that Mr Allason treated libel actions as a hobby and was interested only in making easy money.

After three hours of deliberation the jury of six men and six women found against Mr Allason, who remained impassive as the verdict was read out. The former MP, who is



ACTION MAN

The former MP's defeat was only his second in 24 libel actions. Mr Allason, who has "settled several cases out of court", has never disclosed the amount of his "windfalls". But they were into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Perhaps his most famous case...

estimated to have made a small fortune from the spy books he writes under the pseudonym Nigel West, did not comment on his defeat and slipped out of the High Court via a side exit.

His mother Nicola, 77, and friend Jane Burgess, a violinist, left via a separate exit. Ms Burgess said: "If that was justice, I would like to know what the definition of justice is."

In his evidence, Mr Allason, an accomplished amateur advocate, described the remarks as a "vicious libel" and a "revolting slur". He said there was "nothing fun" about libel

and made an impassioned plea to the jury not to let the media get away with it. "Where I believe the media has been guilty of misconduct, I feel I have a responsibility to step in."

The defence, led by Charles Gray, QC, argued that the remarks were in a long British tradition of poking fun at people in authority. "Think before you make an award which thrones programmes like *Have I Got News for You*," Mr Gray said.

Colin Swash, the series producer and author of the remark, stood by his material under cross-examination from

Mr Allason who, he said, should have taken the joke. "David Mellor was called a sex-mad buffoon, but I'd expect him to shrug, say something nasty about us, and then get on with life," he said.

Mr Gray argued that the phrase "conviving little shir" was also fair comment given Mr Allason's opposition to the Maastricht treaty and his behaviour when he refused to support the Government in a confidence vote on the issue.

Jonny Mulville, managing director of Hat Trick Productions, which makes *Have I Got News For You* for the BBC, was delighted at the result. "Mr Allason is obviously very skilled at bringing this sort of action and it would have been a bad day for the programme, and others like it, if he had succeeded."

Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye* and a regular team captain on *Have I Got News For You*, could barely contain his glee. "I understand litigation is a bit of a hobby of his. He's going to have to find a new hobby now," he said.



On the losing side: Rupert Allason leaving the High Court after his libel action

Boycott's assault conviction 'set aside'

By Paul Wilkinson

GEOFFREY Boycott's conviction for assaulting his lover Margaret Moore had been set aside by the French courts because he was not present at the hearing, his lawyers said yesterday.

Richard Knaggs, Boycott's British solicitor, said that the former cricketer had not attended Tuesday's hearing in a French court because he expected it to be adjourned. Boycott had faxed the court at Grasse, on the French Riviera, to explain his absence, saying that he was at an international cricket tournament. The court fined him £5,000 and imposed a suspended three-month jail sentence.

However, Stéphane Choukroun, Margaret Moore's French lawyer, said yesterday that he had not been informed of any intention to rescind or set aside the verdict.

Mrs Moore, as a civil plaintiff in the case, has automatic access to any ruling of the court and M Choukroun said that he had not been informed of any such decision.

Judge grants Clark ban on spoof diary

By Emma Wilkins

ALAN CLARK, the Tory MP, diarist and self-confessed philanderer, was celebrating victory yesterday after the High Court in London ruled that a spoof newspaper column damaged his reputation as a serious man of letters.

The *Evening Standard*, which was banned from further publication of *Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary* under Mr Clark's photograph, was ordered to pay costs estimated at £250,000.

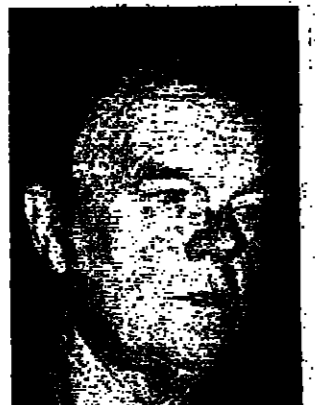
The newspaper published a

revised spoof in later editions yesterday under the headline *NOT Alan Clark's Diary*, accompanied by a photograph of Mr Clark with the eyes masked out. The format was agreed by the parties' lawyers.

In the front-page spoof, written by a journalist, Peter Bradshaw, Mr Clark's victory is parodied: "The moment of ultimate triumph has an ineffable sweetness, an almost sexual discharge of energy... A dashing and well-planned raid, completed with dazzling success. Was this how Montgomery felt at El Alamein?"

Mr Clark, 69, who was accused of "colossal vanity" under cross-examination, said yesterday that the articles had caused him great distress. "I think that nobody likes to have people attribute to them words which are written by somebody else."

Granting the injunction, Mr Justice Lightman found that the newspaper was guilty of the common-law offence of "passing off" and false attribution of authorship under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act of 1988. He said the judgment did not bar publication of other parodies.



Clark: fake column had caused "great distress"

SALE NOW ON. 1,000s OF OFFERS THROUGHOUT THE STORE.

15% OFF ALL CERAMIC TILES sale

GATSBY
Decor and Border Tiles (152 x 152mm)
Black. Pack of 6
SAVE £4.05
NOW £5.94

PENELOPE
Decor Tiles (150 x 200mm)
Border Tiles (150 x 50mm)
Aqua or Blue
Pack of 6
SAVE £2.68
NOW £3.31

BRONDESUR
Decor Tiles (152 x 152mm)
Border Tiles (152 x 76mm)
Blue or Green
Pack of 6
SAVE £2.60
NOW £3.39

HOMEBASE
Fruit Salad
Decor Tiles (150 x 150mm)
Pack of 6
SAVE £1.45
NOW £2.54

SOPHIE
Decor Tiles (150 x 200mm)
Border Tiles (150 x 50mm)
Aqua or Green
Pack of 6
SAVE £2.68
NOW £3.31

GATSBY
Tiles (152 x 152mm)
Black
Pack of 18
SAVE £3.90
NOW £5.09

AMBIENCE
Tiles (108 x 108mm)
Blue, Green or Terracotta
Pack of 24
SAVE £3.05
NOW £5.94

HOMEBASE
Bulk White Tiles (150 x 150mm)
Pack of 72
SAVE £2.05
NOW £5.94

GATSBY
Tiles (152 x 152mm)
Black
Pack of 18
SAVE £3.90
NOW £5.09

PUEBLO
Decor Tiles (108 x 108mm)
Pack of 6
SAVE £2.10
NOW £3.99

HOMEBASE
Bulk White Tiles (150 x 150mm)
Pack of 72
SAVE £2.05
NOW £5.94

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMEBASE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

Given half a chance, Nana would like to change the world... hers and yours.

Millions of young women like Nana want to protect their health and plan their family. Ten thousand women die every week because they don't have this chance. They die from too many pregnancies, too close together, or childbearing too young. Many more suffer chronic illness. Most of this is preventable. Through our work many young women like Nana can have a choice. You can choose right now to help.

POPULATION CONCERN

I would like more information
 Please send information on donating through Concern/Out Aid/Logica (where appropriate)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Please return to: Population Concern, 278 Wood Street, London, EC2Y 4DP. Telephone: 01753-631125. Email: popcon@popcon.org.uk

A PERSONAL FREEDOM. A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

THURSDAY JANUARY 22 1998

Life for... killer who re-enacted porn video

Beef ban...

Boys accused...

Holiday...

use

Transplants...

Home sign...

nan

in'

Estas...

Beaver...

PHONE. FREE CALL UP TO £56.88 OFF HOME PHONE BILL

FREE MOBILE CALL

FREE HOME CALL

FREE MOBILE CALL

FREE LINE RENT

FREE ACCESSORY

PHONE 0800 0 3888

سكذ من لاصحل

Calculators out in drive to raise maths standards

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN will not use calculators in lessons before the age of 8 under a blueprint for mathematics published yesterday, which is designed to help primary schools to meet higher targets for numeracy.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, welcomed the recommendations of a numeracy task force, which pinned its hopes on daily mathematics lessons with an accent on traditional teaching methods to raise numeracy levels before 2002.

The expert group, chaired by David Reynolds, of Newcastle University, called for regular mental and oral arithmetic to develop numeracy skills. The programme also demands more whole-class teaching, with children facing the teacher, rather than around tables.

Children would be introduced to calculators from the age of 8, but would use them regularly only in the final year of primary school, unless doing advanced work. Although the group is yet to agree a ban on calculators in earlier years, ministers have made clear that this should be a cornerstone of the drive to ensure that children grasp the basics of arithmetic.

Professor Reynolds said the approach, which will be sub-

ject to consultation before final recommendations in the spring, would mean updating successful methods, rather than going back to basics.

The 60-page report calls for a detailed framework showing what children should cover at each age. But Tony Gardiner, the president of the Mathematical Association, described the recommendations as "vague" and called for greater prescription.

International studies have shown British pupils lagging behind their counterparts in other countries in basic numeracy, although they do well in the practical application of mathematics. In response, the Government declared that three quarters of 11-year-olds should reach the expected standard by 2002, compared with barely more than half at present.

The measures mirror those adopted by the Government for literacy. Ministers have already announced a streamlining of the national curriculum in primary schools to allow teachers the time to put them into practice. Each local authority will be set its own target next autumn and Britain will take part in an international year of mathematics in 2000.

Mr Blunkett said: "Today's report will help parents and pupils to see that numeracy skills matter as much as literacy for success in education and life after school."

Under the task force's recommendations, head teachers, governors and teachers would be given extra training to focus on "effective" methods of teaching. The literacy summer school programme launched last year would be extended to cover numeracy and parents would be helped to play a more active part in their children's education.

Mr Blunkett said he would bid for an increase in funding to give schools the resources to implement the recommendations. The methods used by 200 schools piloting the National Numeracy Project cost £18 per pupil per year.

Teachers' leaders welcomed the report. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "The Government must move with urgency to make this possible. It will have to deal with oversized classes and mixed-age and mixed-key-stage classes."

Doug McAvooy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said teachers would be concerned if existing good practice was thrown out.



Factor of four: after Stephen Byers, left, slipped up, Heinz Wolff, Sir John Harvey-Jones, and Jilly Cooper displayed varying degrees of numeracy

When the numbers just don't add up

John O'Leary and Tim Jones find that even ministers and other famous faces can fail to figure things out

THE Government's drive to improve the nation's numerical skills got off to a faltering start when Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, slipped up on his times tables during a radio interview.

Having urged all children to practise basic mathematics for an hour a day, Mr Byers was asked what eight sevens were. He said: "I was aware you were going to ask me. I think it's 54."

Eleanor Oldroyd, the Radio 5 presenter, told him the answer was 56. Mr Byers said later: "This is a lesson to us all. I will be spending an hour tomorrow learning my times tables."

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, was almost

caught out hours later when asked, in the middle of a briefing about the Government's numeracy strategy, the answer to nine eights. The response was not immediate, but Mr Blunkett recovered to give the correct answer.

"It's a long time since I've done my eight-times-table," he said. "You have helped me refresh my rustiness. We all get a little rusty, but I'm a great advocate of mental arithmetic. We all sometimes find we can't do it in the same way we could when we were fifteen." A spokesman for the

Prime Minister said that Mr Blair thought Mr Byers was an excellent minister, adding with a smile: "Those responsible for government communication should get up in lights before the issues we are seeking to promote."

The Times contacted a number of prominent people yesterday and set them four questions, including the one that stumped Mr Byers. In addition to seven times eight, they were asked: give 0.5 as a fraction; give a factor of 35 which is greater than one

and how many times nine has been gone into 350 (answers below).

Sir John Harvey-Jones, former ICI chairman and industrial trouble-shooter, paused only briefly before answering the first three correctly, but thought there were 22 nines in 350.

Heinz Wolff, celebrity inventor and television presenter, did not even draw breath before rattling out the answers. "A certain facility in being able to do mental arithmetic is essential for everyone," he said. Jilly Cooper,

the writer, fell down on question three: "I thought a factor was a French postman. I am trying to work out a feeding rota for my cats, which I suppose is vaguely mathematical."

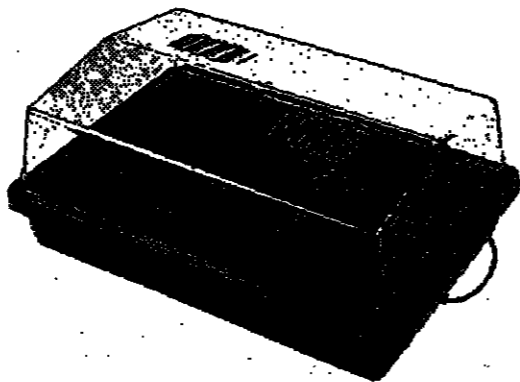
John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, appeared to stumble briefly on the second question but, to be fair, the signal to his mobile phone was breaking up.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, former headmaster and Education Minister, answered the first question without hesitation but then said he was too busy to tackle the rest — an answer not recommended for GCSE students.

Answers: Six: 1: 5 of 7; 20.

Price cuttings for your greenhouse

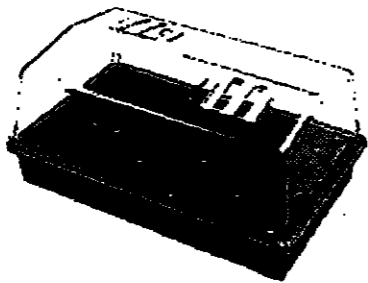

Murphy's Hormone Rooting Powder
Was £1.49
Now £1.29



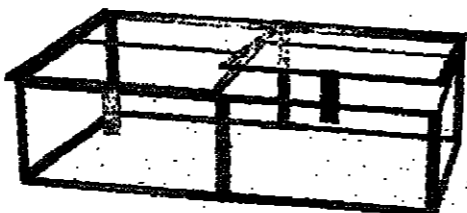
HALF PRICE
Sankey Growarm 300 Heated Propagator
Was £39.99
Now £19.99



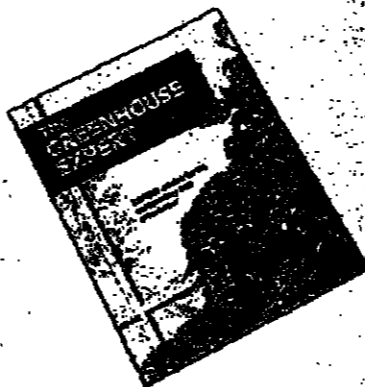
Do It All Multipurpose Compost 15 litre
Was £1.99
Now £1.69



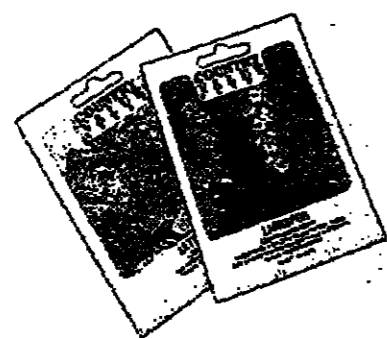
Sankey Grostart Propagator £2.99



Halls Coldframe 4' x 2' £39.99



PBI Greenhouse Expert Book £5.99



Johnson's Country Value Seeds From 50p per packet



DO IT ALL

Boys accused of rape were in problem class

BY ADRIAN LEE

DISCIPLINE in the primary class from which four boys are accused of sexually molesting a nine-year-old girl was so bad that a team of behavioural experts had been drafted in by the education authority, a court was told yesterday.

Class Five at the West London school was singled out for help, the headmistress told the Old Bailey. Many of its 24 pupils were disruptive and their education was affected because no permanent teacher could be found and supply teachers failed to stay. In 18 months, at least ten came and went, the headmistress said.

One of the pupils accused of rape in the boys' lavatory block was among the worst offenders, often shouting and arguing with his teachers. Of Class Five, made up of nine and ten-year-olds and including the alleged victim, the

headmistress, who is in her 40s, said: "They were selected as a special class to be worked with." Many were from poor backgrounds. Twice a week, the Behaviour Support Unit from Hamersmith and Fulham council would visit.

Because of the problems of finding a permanent teacher, she and the deputy head teacher sometimes taught the class, which was often split up to seek an improvement. Supply teachers would not stay.

The headmistress gave her views on each of the accused. She said of one boy, who denies rape and indecent assault: "He did spend a considerable time arguing, shouting about why it was wrong to accuse him or why it was someone else's fault."

A second boy, who also denies rape and indecent assault, was another source of trouble but did respond when

talked to and would apologise and improve his behaviour for a short time.

A third boy, who denies indecent assault and is accused of acting as the look-out, was of above average intelligence and a keen student. The fourth boy, who is the girl's cousin and denies indecent assault, rarely misbehaved but had once been suspended for fighting.

Mark Dennis, QC, for the prosecution, asked the headmistress: "In your view are they fully aware of the difference between right and wrong?"

She replied: "Yes, in my view they are."

Mr Dennis asked her if she thought the boys realised it was "seriously wrong" to hurt someone or "to gang up on them." The headmistress said she thought they all did.

The trial continues.

Massive Tiny sale



with nothing to pay until 1999!

SYSTEMS START FROM **£669** inc VAT

51 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREEPHONE 0800 731 9372

TINY

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

All systems guaranteed. All prices include VAT. Delivery is subject to stock availability. Please check availability before ordering. Access to internet is available for an additional charge. Delivery is subject to stock availability. Please check availability before ordering. Access to internet is available for an additional charge. Delivery is subject to stock availability. Please check availability before ordering. Access to internet is available for an additional charge.

JANUARY 22 1998
IN BRIEF
Life for sex killer who re-enacted porn video

Beef ban delay

Boys accused

Holiday tax

Transplants

Dome sign

Ecstasy quest

Bigger flood

MORE D COUNTS

BRITISH GAS HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER WHO COULD MEAN SAVINGS OF AROUND 15% ON GAS BILLS NOW BRITISH GAS ENERGY CENTRES HAVE FOLLOWED THE LEAD OF OTHER CENTRES BY SELECTING COOKERS FOR WASHING MACHINES AND TOWEL DRYERS ON TOP OF THEIR BILL PRICES ALSO POINT TO A NEW CENTRAL HEATING BATTLE FROM THE 1990S TO THE 2000S TO BE A CHANCE TO WIN THE BAY FOR THE WORLD'S BEST BUYER THE COMPETITION ONLY PARTNERS MAKE THE LIFE YOU LIVE EASIER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE OFFERS

PHONE. FREE CALL UP TO £56.88 OFF HOME PHONE BILL
FREE MOBILE
FREE HOME
FREE MOBILE
FREE LINE
FREE ACCESS
PHONE 0800 0 2888



WILSON played safe over invasion

Wilson played safe over invasion

Wilson played safe over invasion



A close-up taken by Galileo shows icy plains on Europa, below, one of Jupiter's moons

Scientists alarmed by extent of fish mutations

SEX changes in wildlife caused by pollution are far more severe and widespread than was previously supposed.

Scientists at the Environment Agency yesterday warned industry that it must either reduce or find alternatives to hundreds of chemicals which mimic the female hormone oestrogen.

The scientists said a study on sex changes in fish, released yesterday, had convinced them that action was needed to halt the sex changes. Dr Jan Pentreath, the agency's chief scientist, said the writing was "on the wall. The more we look, the more we are seeing".

The research, by a team led by Professor John Sumpter of Brunel University, is believed to be the first to firmly ascribe the feminisation of male fish to discharges from sewage works and factories.

Dr Pentreath said his team was also concerned that the drought, in which many rivers had been maintained by the release of treated water, might be aggravating the damage.

Professor Sumpter, whose team looked at 2,000 fish from

The Environment Agency is calling on industry to clean up rivers to halt an increase in sex changes linked to pollution. Nick Nuttall reports

18 sites in Britain and Ireland, said that the sex of up to 60 per cent of male roach downstream from discharges was changed severely. But, on average, only up to 25 per cent of fish upstream of a works suffered this fate.

The males are producing large numbers of eggs in their testes and, in severe cases, are also producing oviducts, the tubes in females through which eggs are released.

Tests in the Royal Canal in Ireland and the Grantham Canal in Nottinghamshire, where there are no discharges, found fewer than 12 per cent with severe sex change.

The biggest effects were seen downstream on two rivers with large discharges: the Aire in South Yorkshire and the

Nene in Northamptonshire, where all of the male fish were hermaphrodites, followed by the River Arun in Sussex, with nearly 80 per cent.

"If you offered me a trout from the River Aire I would probably say, 'I will stick to the stuff in the freezer,'" said Professor Sumpter, whose research is funded by the Environment Agency and the Government's Natural Environment Research Council. Studies are now under way to see if trout are suffering similar damage and whether intersex fish are able to breed.

The scientists said it was impossible to know which of thousands of suspect chemicals were to blame. Dr Pentreath said previous research by the agency using

caged fish had linked sex changes with human and synthetic oestrogens from the contraceptive Pill. The studies indicate that something in the way these hormones are treated at sewage works makes them more potent. But the new research also indicates that chemicals, ranging from detergents and pesticides to adhesives and plastics, are causing male fish to change sex.

Bob Price, of the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the big water companies, said yesterday that it was researching ways of detecting oestrogens at industrial works.

Dr Pentreath said: "Industry needs to recognise the risks and uncertainties associated with this problem and should, therefore, take its own precautionary action by developing alternative products that don't have hormone-disrupting properties."

The latest findings follow studies by Newcastle University which found that up to 94 per cent of male flounders in the Tyne estuary showed signs of sex changes.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

In the pink: Streatham's best-known siren



the new 100-page magazine

Special 36-page section for the space in your life

Ocean on Jupiter's moon may harbour life forms

By ANJANA AHUJA

THE icy crust of Europa, the fourth largest of Jupiter's moons, hides a vast ocean which might be warm enough to support life.

Analysis of high-resolution images from the Galileo spacecraft suggests there are icebergs the size of Central London and standing 125 miles high where the crust has broken away.

Nasa is now drawing up plans to deploy a submarine to investigate Europa's ocean for signs of life. The *Cryobot/Hydrobot* mission would probably be launched after 2010.

The presence of icebergs indicates that warm currents are circulating in the ocean, which may enable it to support organisms. Scientists had suspected that an ocean existed on

Europa, which is about the size of our Moon, ever since *Voyager 1* and *Voyager 2* flew past it in the late Seventies.

The pictures from Galileo, analysed by scientists across America and published in *Nature* magazine, confirm that the ice crust is about 90 miles thick, with water underneath. The scientists also discovered that the surface of Europa was spinning faster than its rocky interior, which would make sense if the satellite's surface was "floating" on a liquid ocean.

Galileo has also revealed that Europa is sparsely cratered, implying that the icy surface is being continually replenished by water welling up from below, perhaps due to volcanic activity.

Exercise regime keeps rats in the fast lane

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PHYSICAL exercise could stave off the mental ravages of old age, according to experiments on middle-aged rats.

Dr Rodney Swain and colleagues at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee compared the brains of sedentary rats with those of rats who had access to an exercise wheel.

The active rats were allowed to run for a fixed number of days, from one to 30, so that

the scientists could measure the effects of different regimes. The rats were not forced to run, and some seemed to enjoy it more than others: the most energetic covered up to 10 kilometres.

Earlier studies had shown that young rats grew blood vessels in their brains after exercise but it had been assumed that this was possible only early in life. The new research shows that the same is true in mature rats.

Study of the animals' brains showed that activity had stimulated the growth of blood vessels in the regions controlling motor activity. All the growth took place rapidly, in the first three days of activity. "We didn't expect that three-day peak," Dr Swain told *New Scientist*. After the blood vessels increased, all the rats stepped up their activity.

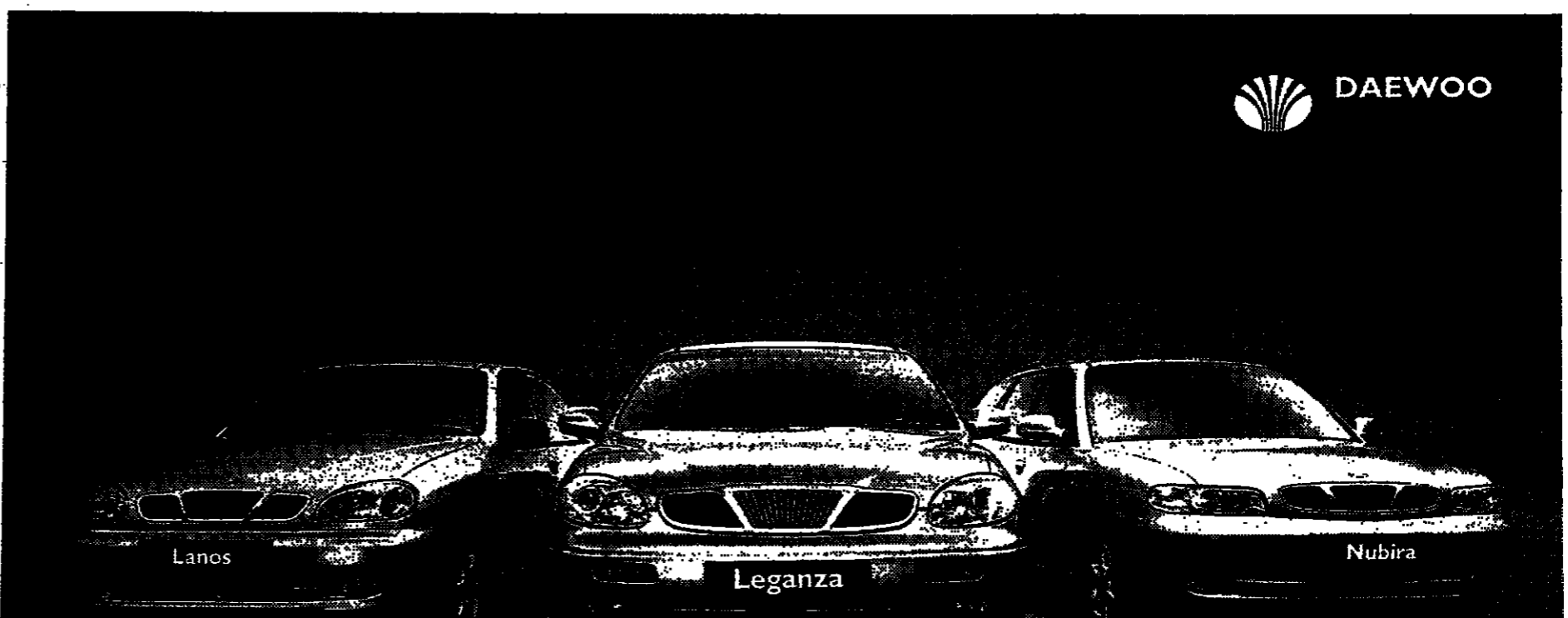
Exercise means that brain cells in the motor cortex and the cerebellum increase their activity, Dr Swain says, so the brain grows extra blood vessels to supply them. Brain areas not involved in controlling limbs showed no changes.

Dr Swain believes the same changes would be seen in human brains within a month of starting regular exercise and that this might help to protect against mental decline.

"cool, clever, insightful, provocative and funny"

in the company of men

jan 30



OUR THREE NEW CARS NOW INCLUDE ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE.

- Daewoo's three new cars already come with the most comprehensive after sales package in the market:
- 1) 3 years/60,000 mile free servicing, including labour, parts and a courtesy car.
 - 2) 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty.
 - 3) 3 years Daewoo Total AA Cover.

But from now until 31st March 1998, all our new cars will also come with one year's free comprehensive insurance

if you're aged between 25 and 80 (subject to status).

The fixed prices of our brand new Lanos, Nubira and Leganza range from £8,795 to £14,995.

For more information about our new cars and free insurance offer call 0800 666 222.

The best all round car package?

That'll be the Daewoo.

backmaile about tou

SAVING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS?

Talk2 US NOW!

UK	7p
24h	8.5p
11.2p	4.9p
5.8p	2.9p
2.8p	3.3p
4.9p	4.4p
1.2p	1.2p
1.2p	2.5p

00 496 2020

Talk2

THURSDAY JANUARY 22 1998

ir has clear strategy for winning EMU

Financial briefs
The Bank of England has said it will not raise interest rates in the next few months, but it will do so if inflation remains high. The bank also said it will continue to buy government bonds to keep the money market liquid. The bank's decision is seen as a sign of confidence in the economy.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Mr. Riddell has said that the Labour Party's policy on the EMU is clear. He said that the party will not accept the EMU unless it is on terms that are acceptable to the British people. He also said that the party will continue to support the EMU, but only if it is on terms that are acceptable to the British people.

ton wins new role

The new role of the... The new role of the... The new role of the...

ed today, live on tomorrow?

The new role of the... The new role of the... The new role of the...



Now, now, don't be envious.

Pictured is the 1998 Accord 2.0i SE, surrounded by some other fine motor cars. The trouble is, they're not quite as fine as the Accord. Six of them don't have a passenger airbag. None of them has cruise control. Seven of them have left their factories without rear

electric windows. And one of them doesn't even have ABS brakes. [To give it its due, it's also the only one apart from the Accord that is trimmed with wood.] You begin to get the idea. Six of them don't sport alloy wheels. Four of them will get you hot and bothered, as they don't have air-conditioning.

And six of them don't have an electric sunroof. But these are trifling deficiencies compared to other, more fundamental issues. The Accord is the only one equipped with race-bred double-wishbone suspension, which keeps the wheels as vertical as possible, thus maximising traction, the 'feel' of

the steering, and the enjoyment of driving. The 2.0i SE will cost you just £16,795 on the road. For further information, please telephone 0345 159 159. And find out why, if you choose another car, you could end up seeing red. Technology you can enjoy, from Honda.

FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES: URBAN 23.0 MPG/11.9 L/100KM; EXTRA URBAN 28.2 MPG/12.1 L/100KM; COMBINED 22.1 MPG/11.8 L/100KM. INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. CAR SHOWN IS THE ACCORD 2.0i SE £16,795 ON THE ROAD PLUS £245 FOR METALLIC PAINT





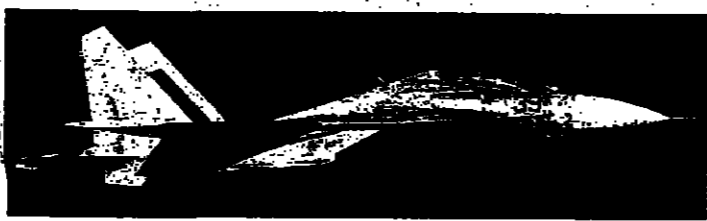
Mark Jefferies, left, and Clive Davidson, right, with a Russian air traffic controller at Kaliningrad airport with their jet. Below, a Sukhoi similar to the one that was scrambled to intercept them

Russian 'tried to down British fliers'

TWO British airmen arrived home last night from Russia, where they were held for five days after being blown off course in a snowstorm. They said a Russian Air Force pilot had tried to kill them after they put out a distress call.

Mark Jefferies, a former British aerobatics champion, and Clive Davidson, who has instructed Aer Lingus pilots, said they had asked to divert to a Russian airfield when they ran low on fuel. The pilot of a Sukhoi-27 that was scrambled to intercept them repeatedly buzzed their aircraft. Their plane was knocked almost upside down by the blast from the Russian jet's exhaust and at one point shuddered on the edge of a stall, they said.

"It was a deliberate attempt to take us out," said Mr Davidson, 45, hours after the Britons were allowed to leave Russia where they were interrogated and denied permission to continue their flight for five days. "They tried to knock us



out of the sky," Mr Jefferies said. Major-General Pyodor Khranov, in charge of the Russian Baltic Fleet's air defence, said he had ordered the intercepting jet to fire warning shots at the Britons and accused them of provocation. General Khranov also said it was possible that the pair had been listening to Russian military air traffic controllers and may have been testing air defences, a claim dismissed as ludicrous by the Britons. The general said they had enough fuel to avoid a diversion.

The pilots set out last Thursday to fly a Czech-made L29 jet from Lithuania to Cambridge on behalf of another Briton who had bought the aircraft. They planned to refuel at Gdansk in Poland, but flew into a snowstorm with headwinds of 100 knots, which increased their planned flying time. The claim it became clear that they did not have enough fuel to continue to Poland or return to Lithuania.

The pair of airmen who strayed during a snowstorm speak exclusively to Eve-Ann Prentice about how a scrambled fighter plane dived with their lives

They say they contacted the international distress frequency and asked for permission to divert to Kaliningrad. "The intercepting jet did not use any of the international intercept procedures and was not using the distress frequency as he should have done, so there was no way of knowing what he

wanted us to do," Mr Davidson said. "We were short of fuel and Mark was making the signal to show this, which is to put the thumb to the mouth. "I was sitting in the rear cockpit and the Russian repeatedly cut across us, so close I could see him shaking his fist at us," Mr Davidson said.

what he wanted us to do. Then he dived at us and nearly hit the ground himself. We only just avoided a collision." Mr Davidson said that Mr Jefferies's experience as an aerobatics pilot probably helped them to survive. After landing, the Britons were interrogated for three days and refused permission to continue their flight until Tuesday, when they flew to Gdansk. Bad weather forced them to leave the Czech jet in Poland yesterday and continue to London by a scheduled flight. "After we landed it was initially very hostile until our story proved to be genuine," Mr Jefferies said. "We were forced to stand for an hour and a half in freezing weather on the Tarmac no more than 20 yards from the plane. We were not offered food or drink for three days."

Netanyahu claims progress in talks with Clinton

FROM IAN BROMIE IN WASHINGTON

A LATE-NIGHT session at the White House brought some progress to the stalled Middle East peace process, according to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday. President Clinton had suggested that rather than withdrawing Israeli troops from Palestinian areas of the West Bank in one swoop, the next phase could be carried out in smaller steps. In exchange, the Palestinians would adopt measures to halt terrorist attacks against Israel, including arrests and sharing of intelligence.

The proposals were described as "work in progress" by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. They were explored during a second 90-minute meeting between Mr Clinton and Mr Netanyahu, held in the White House living quarters and lasting until midnight. An earlier meeting, after a tense beginning, had ended in stalemate.

But when Mr Netanyahu appeared at the National Press Club in Washington yesterday he said: "We have made some progress. Work needs to be done, but the elements of an agreement may be there."

Much depends on today's talks at the White House when Mr Clinton will raise the same set of issues with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who was arriving in Washington last night as Mr Netanyahu was due to leave. In a sub-plot to this week's talks, the Holocaust Museum in Washington changed its mind and invited Mr Arafat to make a VIP visit. Last weekend museum officials said it would be inappropriate for him to tour the museum, but they gave in under White House and State Department pressure. Mr Netanyahu said he hoped the visit would lead to a change in the Palestinian press's habit of denying the reality of the Holocaust.

Jerusalem: Israeli forces will be ordered back into territory now controlled by the Palestinian Authority if there is any worsening in terror against Jews or Palestinian armed resistance to this week's talks. In Washington, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, Israel's Chief of Staff, said yesterday in the newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* (Christopher Walker writes).

Son of 'Dapper Don' surrenders after FBI bugs lap-dancing club

New York John A. Gotti Jr, the son of the imprisoned Mafia chief John Gotti, was indicted by federal authorities yesterday on charges of racketeering, loan-sharking, tax evasion, telecommunications fraud, witness tampering, obstruction of justice and

conspiracy to murder (Tunika Varadarajan writes). Mr Gotti Jr, believed to have inherited the reins of the Gambino clan when his father, the "Dapper Don", was jailed for life in 1992, could face at least 20 years in prison after surrendering to agents

of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Yonkers, New York State, yesterday. Mary Jo White, the Manhattan federal attorney, announced that she would be seeking the forfeiture of all of Mr Gotti Jr's assets, believed to amount to more than \$30 million (£18.4 million).

Federal prosecutors also indicted 22 other alleged mafiosi, described as the cream of the next criminal generation. The indictments are the result of a prolonged investigation in which agents posing as clients placed an elaborate web of wire taps in Scores, New York's

most popular lap-dancing club, from which the Gambino clan is believed to have extorted money for more than five years.

The taps were made possible by the co-operation of Michael Blutrich, the former lawyer for the dance club, who also exposed how

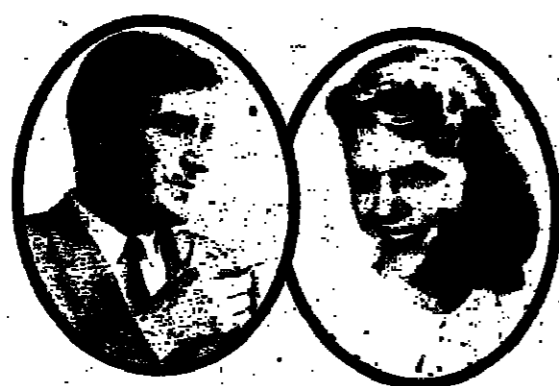
millions of dollars were diverted from Scores to the coffers of the Gambino family. The club's general manager, Lyle Pfeffer, has worked undercover with federal agents for more than a year. The investigation has been the biggest since that which netted Gotti Sr.

Gardens' strike

Advertisement for a mobile phone, featuring a Nokia 3110 and the text "LATEST OKIA 3110".

Large advertisement for "The Bigger Sale With Lower Prices!" featuring various PC models like 200M Home+, 200M-2, 233-2, and 233M-2, with prices and specifications.

Advertisement for Hoverspeed ferries, featuring the headline "Calais and back for just £97* this summer." and details about the service, including "It's the Hoverspeed cure for winter blues."



Erica Wagner introduces the final extract from Ted Hughes's *Birthday Letters*

Poems in memory of Sylvia

Source of both joy and sorrow

In Sylvia Plath's most famous poem, *Daddy*, she recalls her idealised vision of the New England coast while raging against the father who abandoned her by his death.

It is worth noting again that although Plath is the mother of their two children, whom he raised after her death, he knew her for only seven years, 35 years ago: yet in these poems she breathes from the page.

The Prism

The waters off beautiful Nauset
Were the ocean sun, the sea-poured crystal
Behind your efforts. They were your self's cradle.

It was your periscope lens,
Between your earthenware earrings,
Behind your eye-brightness, so lucidly balanced,

I still have it. I hold it -
"The waters off beautiful Nauset".
Your intact childhood, your Paradise
With its pre-Adamite horse-shoe crab in the shallows

This way the irreparably-crushed lamp
In my crypt of dream, totally dark,
Under your gravestone.

Recollections of a husband and father stricken by the loss of his wife



Sylvia Plath as a teenager

Fingers

Who will remember your fingers?
Their winged life? They flew
With the light in your look.
At the piano, stomping out hits from the forties.

Trim conductors of your expertise,
Cavorting at your typewriter.
Possessed by infant spirit, puckish,
Who, whatever they did, danced or mimed it

I remember your fingers. And your daughter's
Fingers remember your fingers
In everything they do.
Her fingers obey and honour your fingers,
The Lares and Penates of our house.

© Ted Hughes, 1998. Extracted from *BIRTHDAY LETTERS* by Ted Hughes published by Faber and Faber Ltd, at £14.99 on 29 January 1998. It is available to Times readers now by calling the Times Bookshop on 0990 134 459

Birth of the baby blues

Ever since the time of Hippocrates, clinicians have noted mood disturbances in women who have recently given birth. In modern industrial societies, about 50 per cent of new mothers experience mild mood changes known as "baby blues".

In the final extract from *Baby Wars*, Dr Robin Baker and Elizabeth Oram look at postnatal depression

negative emotions towards their new baby. In the past, such mothers were often led to neglect, abandon or even kill their babies.

she has the body chemistry to seek sex or not to seek it, to ovulate or not, to implant the fertilised egg or not, to miscarry or not. Finally, she has the urge to look after her newborn baby — or not.

associated with marked changes in a woman's psychology. First, there are the well-known spells of nest-building. The mother-to-be may also go through spells of intense reappraisal of her situation, of which primary targets are her partner, home and general environment.

The currently favoured explanation for postnatal depression is that a baby can trigger chemical changes in parts of the mother's brain



tion is that it is due to chemical changes in parts of the brain which are generated by the body. There is no point in urging a sufferer to "pull herself together".

There are only two ways of changing these thought patterns. One is to administer antidepressants. The other is to find the environmental trigger that will cause the body to change its chemical instructions to the brain.

Once her body receives the evidence that she will have the support she needs to raise a baby, it changes her brain chemistry, and her mood and behaviour become appropriate for motherhood.

© Times readers can buy *Baby Wars* by the university dons Robin Baker and Elizabeth Oram (bestselling authors of *Sperm Wars*) for just £11.99 (RRP £12.99, Fourth Estate) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990

Advertisement for LineOne internet service. Includes quotes like "This is a truly modern online service...delivering topical and relevant content." and "LineOne is an ideal option for home users." Ends with "Before you choose an Internet service, check our references." and "By LineOne and the Internet FREE call 0800 111 210."

Advertisement for Building Society with a large "7.00%" interest rate. Includes a table of interest rates for various account types and contact information for the Building Society.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including "actuary in w drugs" and "ful for the memon".

سكذامن لايصل

Why Tories should call Blair's bluff

William Hague welcomes an alliance but fears a suicide pact

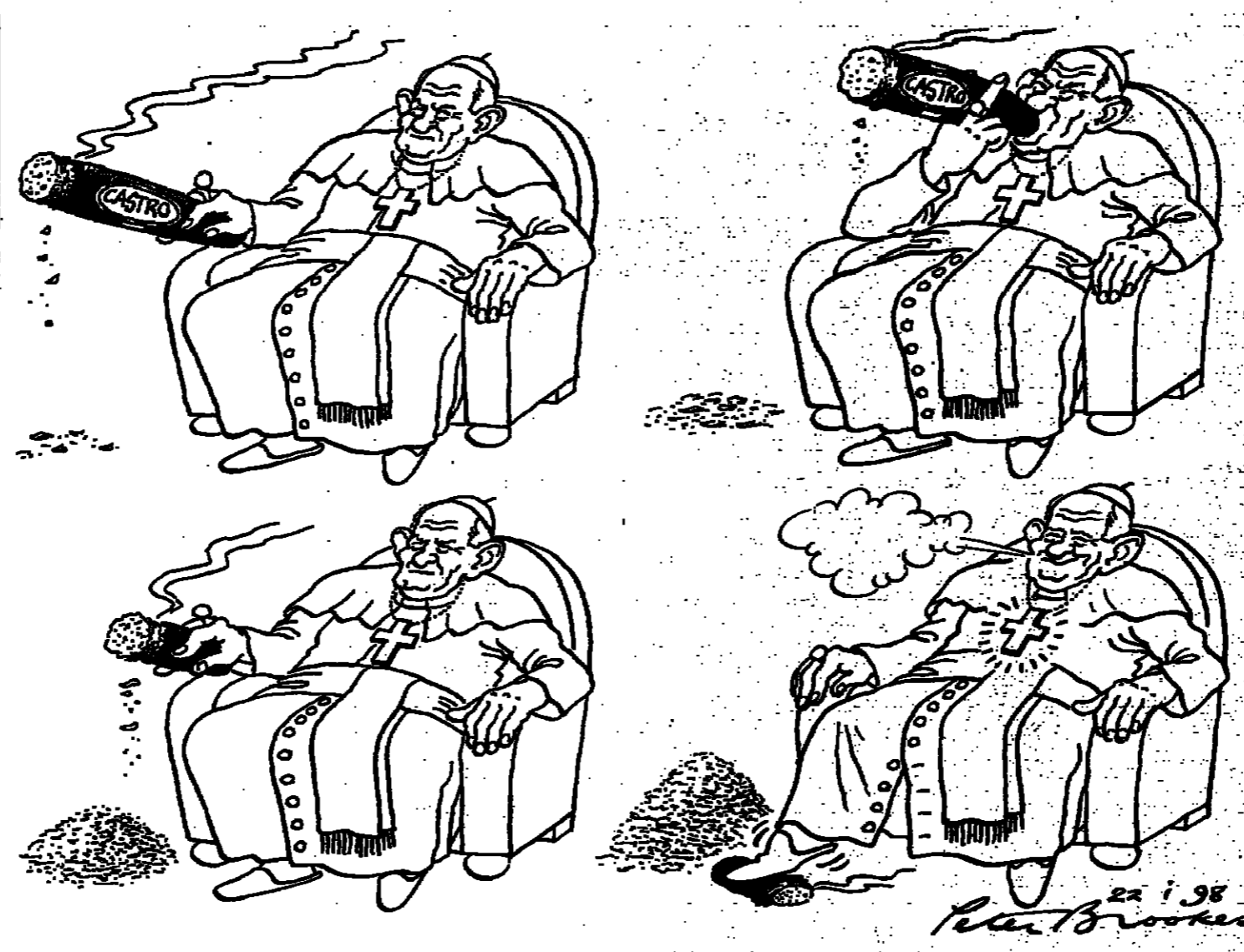
On Tuesday the Prime Minister called for a "patriotic alliance" to promote Britain's interests in Europe. He may well have designed it as a prank.

But our Europe today should not end at the banks of the Oder and the Danube. Poland and Hungary should be as much a part of our Europe as France and Italy.

Yet I fear that is precisely what may be happening. The hurdles to enlargement are being set ever higher.

But I also believe that a single currency could pose very serious risks not just to British sovereignty, but to the political stability of the whole of Europe.

With 18 million people unemployed on the Continent, who would disagree? The truth is Europe is literally not working.



Asia's seismic shift

To assess the likely impact of the Asian crisis on the West, one can start by looking at its effect on one big Western company, Boeing.

Aftershocks of the Far Eastern economic earthquake threaten Western prosperity

half or three-quarters. At the same time the panic of the Asian consumers has shut down demand in their domestic markets.

William Rees-Mogg

This had occurred even before J.P. Morgan took the losses on Asian loans, but the bank — which is the third largest in the United States — said it was allocating 60 per cent of its loan-loss reserves to Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea.

The characteristic Asian problems are corruption, over-investment, particularly in property, and excessive reliance on foreign debt.

Grow up, Gordon: Tony won Magnus Linklater on the lessons of the Blair-Brown bust-up

The wounds have been patched up, but the scars are raw; they may take some time to heal; perhaps they never will.

It would, after all, have been easy to prevent it all happening in the first place. Mr Brown could have kept Paul Routledge, his prospective biographer, at arm's length during the pre-election period, and in its aftermath. He could, and probably should, have recognised that Mr Routledge is not exactly sympathetic to new Labour, and any close contact with him might well be misinterpreted.

Instead, what followed were ten days of leak and counter-leak, a dressing-down in full Cabinet, and the thinly disguised suggestion from No 10 that the Chancellor was psychologically flawed.

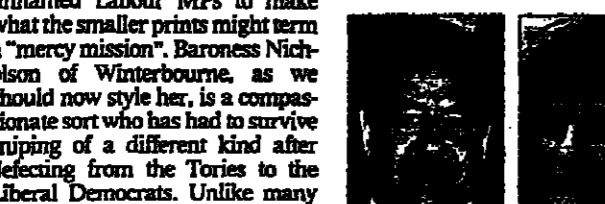
Yet none of the hysteria was justified. On serious matters of policy, on welfare reform, the single currency, the management of the economy, there are no major disagreements between Chancellor and Prime Minister.

His failure to win the leadership race undoubtedly caused him anguish. I remember vividly the day he knew he had lost it: As reported in Mr Routledge's book, it was a story in The Scotsman, which I then edited, which first signalled that Tony Blair was on the road to victory.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, he telephoned me as much in despair as anger. Why had the headline been so negative? Did I realise the damage this would cause? Later, I learnt that he suspected the hand of Peter Mandelson had been behind it.

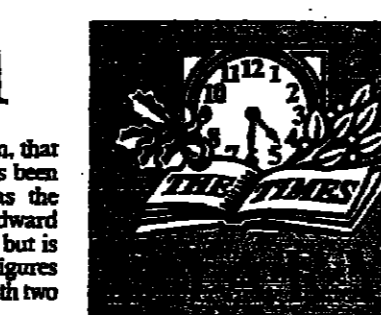
Safety catch

HAS President Saddam Hussein met his match? Emma Nicholson, that game old campaigner who recently took her seat in the Lords, has been invited to Iraq by the slobbly dictator to talk turkey just as the international crisis heats up.



At home: Saddam, Nicholson memory of another touchy-feely former premier: Paul Keating.

Bridge work MY LATEST bulletin on the travails of hard-up Tory MPs concerns Robin Squire, former Education Minister. The post of general manager for the Dolphin Square residential complex, salary £30,000, seemed an easy route



elled in the title "minister for school discipline". The management of the MP-infested Pimlico estate begged to differ: "I was among many interviewed but I was not appointed. It means I have more time to play bridge."

Geoffrey Robinson has found some clues more in keeping with his untapped wealth. The Plymouth General will give the keynote speech at the fifth annual Adam Smith Institute Conference on the Private Finance Initiative in February.

free-market mantra is Paul Flynn. "It is extraordinary for a Labour minister. It's like Thatcher addressing miners' pickets. You have really depressed me."

Arches rivals

A VICTORY has at last been chalked up on the blackened scrap of William Hague: he has won a long campaign to counter pigeon-excrement in his York constituency.



CLIENTS keen to discuss the cost of divorce with their lawyers at Mishcon de Roy's are growing nervous due to the snappers lurking outside.

bridges, loosing their voluminous droppings on pedestrians. Eric Hague, who has boldly ordered Railtrack to put its hands in its well-fleeced pockets.

It has forked out £11,000 to line the arches with nets to stop the pigeons setting. "This is a gesture of goodwill," says a Railtrack spokesman.

Bali high

A PECULIAR meeting of minds is in prospect if the Prince of Wales accepts an invitation from the Prince of Bali and his new wife, Mariamne, to join them in a session of yogi-fying.

Roy-al bride: Mariamne

session with Prince Charles is being sought by that ER guru Max Clifford, hired by the King of Bali to advance his son's dance through English society.

"The Prince is keen to meet Charles while he is here to discuss Eastern philosophy and ideals," explains Clifford, straying impressively from his normal brief.

PATRIOT VICTORY M



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 21: The Prince Edward...

Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk... His Royal Highness subsequently surveyed a new herb garden...

Today's royal engagements The Princess Royal, as patron, the Butler Trust...

Memorial service Mr Donald Horobin A memorial service for Mr Donald Horobin...

Birthdays today Viscount Bearsted, 48; Miss Mary Hayley (Mrs John Mills)...

Malsis School The Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr John Elder...

BMDs: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Architect saves centuries-old royal wall painting uncovered by builders

Prince keen to view restored mural

BUILDERS renovating town centre offices have accidentally uncovered an ancient royal mural...



Part of the mural showing a swirling pattern of foliage and the head of a fantastic heraldic beast

Part of the mural showing a swirling pattern of foliage and the head of a fantastic heraldic beast... The picture was very dramatic and showed foliage depicted in a swirling pattern...

Dinners

British Museum Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor 1618-21...

Reception

British Society Council Sir Neville Purvis, Director-General of the British Society Council...

Latest wills

Lady D'AVIGNON-GOLDSMID, of Tonbridge, Kent, left estate valued at £12,657 gross...

Church news

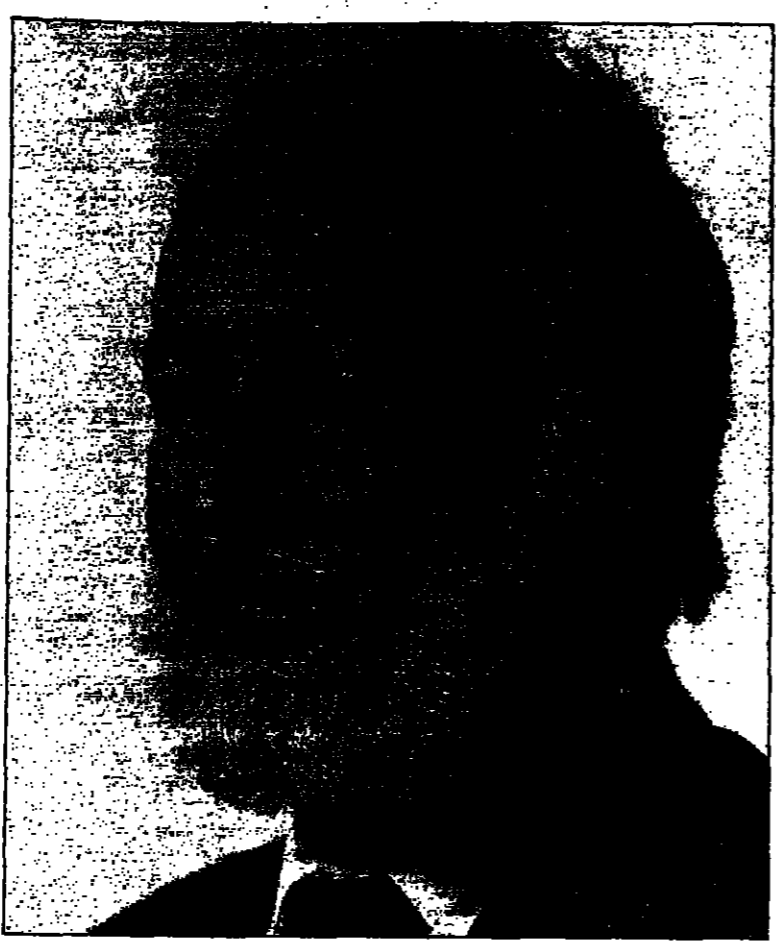
Appointments The Rev Kevin Roberts, Vicar, Mole Basin (Lichfield)...

PERSONAL COLUMN containing Births, Deaths, Announcements, and various notices. Includes sections for Births, Deaths, Announcements, and Notices.

OBITUARIES

SIR ANTHONY GLYN, Bt

Sir Anthony Glyn, 2nd Bt, author, died at his home in the South of France on January 20 aged 75. He was born on March 13, 1922.

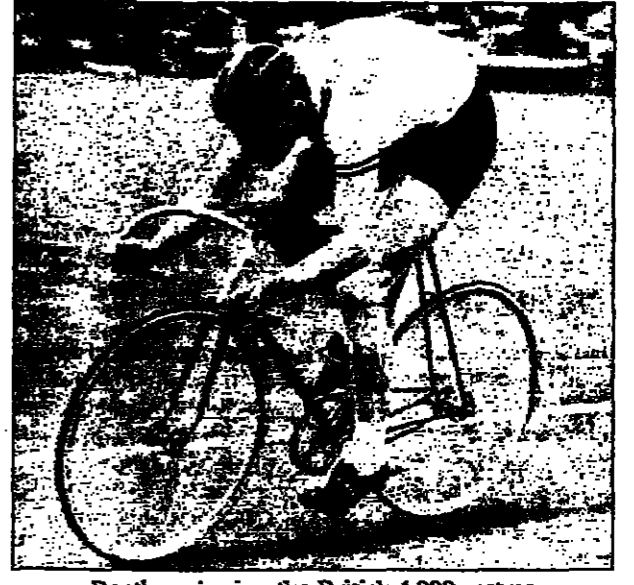


In his novel The Dragon Variation, published in 1969, Anthony Glyn was widely regarded as having made the game of chess a subject for literary drama as no novelist had done before him. Less delicately put, Glyn's book made chess sound like the most exciting thing since bullfighting...

Other things, set himself to mastering rock 'n' roll dancing. The subsuming of his twin persona into one name certainly seemed to give a boost to his creativity...

KEITH BENTLEY

Keith Bentley, international racing cyclist, died on December 22 aged 72. He was born on January 15, 1925.



Bentley winning the British 4,000 metres pursuit title at Herne Hill, 1952

Keith Bentley was a British champion in a sport that, as recently as the 1950s, was so secret that no precise prior publicity for an event or details of its location was permitted...

ship on a Sunday, his build-up included 50 miles training on the Tuesday, a league track match for his club the following evening and another 50 miles training ride on Thursday...

JOHN PINKERTON

John Pinkerton, computer pioneer, died on December 22 aged 78. He was born on August 2, 1919.

JOHN PINKERTON'S modest confidence, coolness under fire and great clarity of thought gave him a major position in the history of the computer industry. He will be remembered as the man who designed for the commercial computer user in the explosive atmosphere of computing during the 1950s...

Trinity, Cambridge, to read natural sciences. He was then called up for war service and to his delight found himself working on radar development at the Telecommunications Research Establishment...

compare notes with other companies, and there they were shown the ENIAC computer, designed for complex mathematical calculations. With great vision, they decided that a similar machine could be adapted to their commercial applications...

Computers, Eliot Automation, Marconi Computers and Leo Computers were cast together, and Innovation Computers and Tabulators was then encouraged to swallow the lot...

DOROTHY STROUD

Dorothy Stroud, MBE, garden historian, died on December 27 aged 87. She was born on January 10, 1910.

(later Sir John) Summerson as his deputy. Dorothy Stroud was recruited as Summerson's assistant, and when he was elected Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum in 1945 she joined him in the capacity of "inspector"...



PERSONAL COLUMN

WINTER SPORTS
SITUATIONS VACANT
FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
CUBA II
AIRLINK

ANNOUNCEMENTS
SARGENT CANCER CARE FOR CHILDREN

ANIMAL LOVERS
GIVE A GIFT

NBI
YOUR WILL

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878 OR FAX: 0171-481 9313

FLIGHTS TO LET

FLIGHTS TO LET

FLIGHTS TO LET

FASCIST CREED

SIR O. MOSLEY AT BIRMINGHAM FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM, JAN 21
It is difficult to judge the significance of the big meeting held at Singsley Hall, Birmingham, to-night to hear Sir Oswald Mosley expound his creed of action...

ON THIS DAY

January 22, 1934
Sir Oswald Mosley (1896-1980) resigned from the Labour government in 1930 and formed a New Party, which in 1931 was renamed the British Union of Fascists. It was proscribed in 1940 and he was interned until 1943.

power over an elected Government. To-day there was no freedom: there was economic slavery, bad housing, low wages, long hours. It was impossible to bring the economic chaos to an end until a Government had power to act, but when they suggested that a Government elected by the people should be given power to act, their opponents spoke of dictatorship and tyranny...

صندوق من لآمل



Nicholas Clark Stock Market Writer of the Year

Booker dives again as analysts cut forecasts

JUST when shareholders of Booker, the food distributor, thought things could not get any worse, the shares hit a new low with a drop of 23p to 220p.



Booker blamed partly cheap salmon for its troubles

Earlier this month Booker was trading at around 353p before the company gave warning that pre-tax profits would come in at less than £80 million, some £15 million below brokers' forecasts.

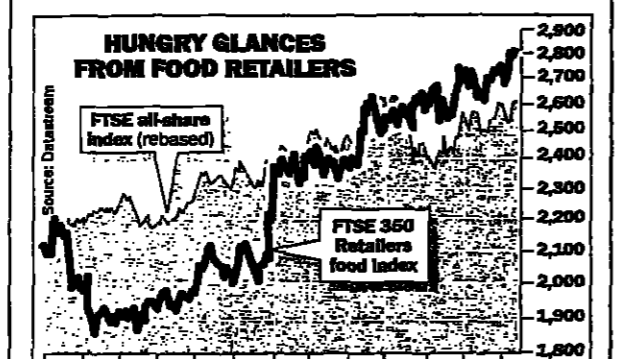
Ciba slapped a bid on the table worth 205p, topping a higher offer of 195p from Hercules earlier in the week. Colloids put on 1½p at a new high of 20p.

Elsewhere in the financial sector London & Manchester touched 573½p before ending the session 12p dearer at 553½p.

There was little for shareholders of John David Sports to cheer about with the price tumbling 21½p to 109p after a gloomy trading update.

There was a brief rally called to trading in GGT Group while the advertising agency announced that next year's results would be hit badly by the loss of the Procter & Gamble account.

The strong pound, increased tobacco duty and cheap Norwegian salmon are among the excuses offered by the management.



SAFWAY edged 2½p higher at 375p on revived talk that rival Asda may be poised to bid. Bid talks last year ended in failure, but it is known Asda, 5½p firmer at 199p.

Rival JB Sports fell 7p to 65½p.

Dragon Oil, which appointed Dresner Kleinwort Benson as sponsor and financial adviser, rose 2½p to 65½p.

AIM-listed Card Clear was marked up higher at 48½p amid mounting speculation that it will be the vehicle of a bigger deal.

NEW YORK: IBM's warning about current-quarter earnings, together with weakness in Asia, unruined investors. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 100.39 points down at 7,772.73.

Table listing stock prices for various markets including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London.

Table listing stock prices for Abbey Nat Dublin, Bond Int Software, General Inds, Longmead (135), Marchpole, Kazzback Vehicles, and Wyndham Motor.

Table listing RISES for Black Arrow, BVA, Harson, Rio Tinto, Bric Broc, Argos, Colt Telecom, and others.

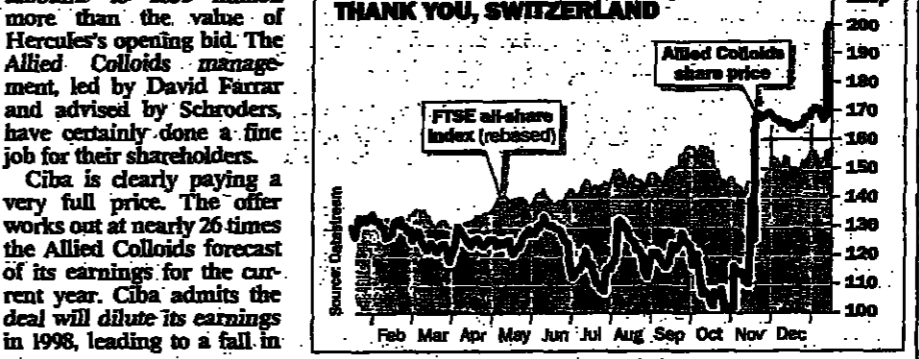
Table listing FALLS for Booker, Biocomps Int, First Earth, Eng China Cl, Smithline, and others.

Table listing various financial instruments like Base Rates, Prime Bank Bills, and Lending Money Rates.

Not as advertised

THE statement accompanying GGT Group's full-year results betrays the haste in which they were rushed out. Mike Greenless, the only one of GGT's founders still with the advertising company, wanted to reassure the market about the £120 million purchase of BDDP, which more than doubled its size.

THE levered battle for Allied Colloids has taken us all by surprise — and certainly Tempus. Hopes of a price close to 200p looked like empty dreaming when Hercules made its first offer in November.



Watson & Philip, like any of today's half-successful retailers, has its mind set on nationwide domination.

Watson & Philip, like any of today's half-successful retailers, has its mind set on nationwide domination. Watson's previous record in the industry was a 24 per cent discount to the market.

Even after yesterday's advance, they are still rated at 12.3 times forecast earnings — suggesting that few in the City think this company is going anywhere fast.

Table listing LIFFE market data including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE B, and WHITE SUGAR FOB.

Table listing ICIS-LOR (London Oil) and CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB).

Table listing LONDON GRAIN FUTURES including WHEAT, BARLEY, POTATO, and RUBBER.

Table listing LONDON METAL EXCHANGE including Copper, Tin, and Nickel.

Table listing various international exchange rates for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, etc.

Table listing Base Rates, Prime Bank Bills, and Lending Money Rates.

Table listing Currency exchange rates for 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, and 12 month.

Table listing various financial instruments like Base Rates, Prime Bank Bills, and Lending Money Rates.

Table listing LIFETIME OPTIONS for various stocks like A&P, ADVA, and ALCO.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.

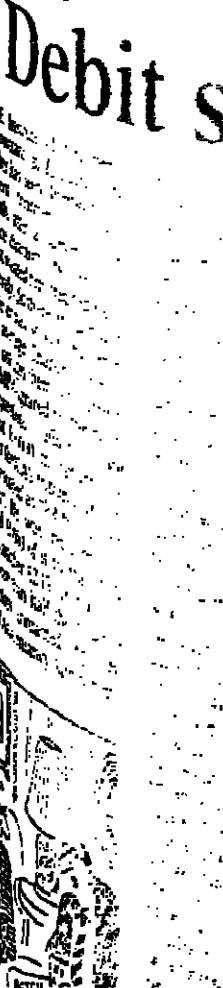
Table listing various stock prices and market data.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.

Table listing various stock prices and market data.



ACCOUNTANCY

Quest for one clear picture

Robert Hodgkinson on the new consensus for a single statement on a company's financial performance

Last week, a radical new consensus emerged from a debate at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. A new single statement of financial performance should replace the profit and loss account and the statement of total recognised gains and losses (STRGL). The institute's financial reporting committee and the London Society of Chartered Accountants hosted the debate.

Recent US and international accounting standards give more prominence to gains and losses falling outside the traditional profit and loss account (or income statement). Back in 1992, the UK's Accounting Standards Board (ASB) led the way with FR33 *Reporting financial performance*. This introduced the STRGL to reflect items such as asset revaluations and currency movements that bypassed a profit and loss account. The ASB will this year start to review FR33 and it has joined other standard-setters in publishing *Reporting Financial Performance: Current Developments and Future Directions*.

This study by the G4+1 group of standard-setters argues that apart from dividends and other transactions with shareholders,

all changes in net assets of a business reflect financial performance and should be reported in a single statement. This would mean transforming the profit and loss account and abandoning the STRGL and other second performance statements. Most of the G4+1 group would like to carve a single statement into three parts: operating, financing and other.

A single statement would give investors a comprehensive starting point for analysis and let directors get on with improving performance instead of fretting about which statement it gets reported in. The proposals would enhance standard-setting in difficult areas such as derivatives. So long as there is a second statement, decisions on how to recognise changes in assets and liabilities can be judged by relegating them from the profit and loss account.

At the debate, G4+1 was summarised by its co-author, Andrew Lennard, of the ASB. He was broadly supported by Peter Holgate who chaired a group drawn from the institute's financial reporting committee, which last October issued *Reporting Performance - Is there a Role for Second Performance Statements?* The



Robert Hodgkinson says all parties must put their views

group answered its own question with a resounding "No". However, while many in the audience backed these conclusions, it would be naive to think that such consensus will translate easily into domestic, let alone worldwide, reform. Potential problems run deeper than

just changing the profit and loss account formats enshrined in law.

Some users feel insulted by suggestions that they cannot see beyond the profit and loss account. However, as Nigel Dealy, of the London Society's technical committee, pointed

out, the STRGL was a response to the "Polly Peck Syndrome". Subsequent experience suggests that continuing to report losses outside the main performance statement is tempting fate.

Some traditionalists will want to preserve a net profit number safely realised and based on historical cost. Pragmatists may wish to include it in the single statement. However, purists and preparers are likely to see that as compromising the format of a single statement, making it a multicolour maze.

Debate found other potential discord in the "new consensus". The G4+1 study says that it is essentially only operating performance that is actively managed; other gains or losses are more random. So, the ASB sees the total at the foot of a single statement as meaningless and is scornful of summary measures. By contrast, the institute paper sees directors as responsible for the new bottom line and argues that total performance and its composition should be the focus of management comment.

In reviewing FR33, the ASB will lead the world in trying to achieve a single statement of financial performance. Investors, analysts and preparers need to get involved. Comments on the institute paper should be addressed to Robert Langford.

The author, a partner in Arthur Andersen's UK Professional Standards Group, chairs the English ICA's Financial Reporting Committee

Mega-merger dream faces culture clash

UNLESS utter exhaustion has set in through their constant criss-crossing of the Atlantic, the senior partners of the firms seeking mega-mergers may now be realising the full extent of what they have unleashed.

This week the focus has turned to Europe. The competition authorities, as expected, have taken the merger proposal of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand to a second stage. This puts the chance of a decision back until May. For the firms, as they scramble to organise the shape of their global structures, that is no surprise and is, in some ways, a relief. It gives them more time to get everything straight and as many people

What they may not have realised is that it also gives the rest of the world time to reassess what is going on. In particular, this is crucial in Europe. On the Continent, there is little tradition of the big accountancy firms. It is a cultural thing. In the UK, the US and the old Commonwealth countries, the big accountancy

firms are part of the landscape of the business world. They started in the UK in the middle of the last century and spread through the English-speaking world as business advisers. In Europe, it is different. Business structures are different. Financial reporting systems are different. The legal basis of companies is different. As a result, the large accountancy firms, though increasingly powerful, have never been as visible as they are elsewhere. This is the background to what is happening. With the competition authorities in Brussels now having to deal with applications for mergers of four of the largest firms in the world and the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris dealing with arbitration as the current largest firm in the world, Andersen Worldwide, seeks to break itself up, the accountancy profession and the implications of its size are being forced on a previously unsuspecting Europe. The results are alarming.

The gossip in Brussels suggests that a Pandora's Box has burst open. The accountancy firms are seen to have achieved extraordinary things by stealth. People had not realised quite how far the firms had sewn up the legal profession. They are suddenly waking up to the fact that KPMG is not just going for a place as the largest accounting firm in the world, but is already the largest law firm in France. Continental European culture has

always been one of cultural differences lovingly honed. The business community is realising that the accountancy firms have undermined all that. They had never paid too much attention to accountants. Accountants in Europe have traditionally been a small elite, not the all-conquering hordes that they are in America or the UK. It is now dawning on the Europeans that the future will be different, unless Brussels can be persuaded to regulate otherwise. Last week's debate in the European Parliament underlined this. One Euro-MP argued that the competition authorities should insist that the number of the big firms is never allowed to fall below five. "There is," one old Brussels hand said last week, "a lot of lobbying going on."

The other consequence is that the big firms may not have foreseen that their merger plans could become mired in Brussels politics. Karel van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, has his eye on the top job when Jacques Santer steps down. So he needs a high profile, and is itching to get stuck into the mergers. At this stage, the simple case of mergers expands. The European Commission is also involved in the whole business of how European companies gain listings on US stock markets. Suddenly, the mergers become the key to regulating the securities markets, and, because people have woken up to implications for the legal profession, they become the key to regulating the legal field, too.

It is a far cry from the simple aim of raising cash to invest in Chinese markets, which the firms initially suggested was their motivation. There is a severe chance that the firms are suddenly finding themselves out of their depth. Van Miert, the smart money in Brussels is saying, will have to stop one and block the other. This scenario for the firms would be disastrous. There is no doubt that the Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand merger proposal is more complete and competent than that of KPMG and Ernst & Young. So Brussels, it is suggested, would simply knock the KPMG/Ernst effort on the head and tell PW and Coopers to come back in three years and use that time to get organised.

None of this may have crossed senior partners' minds when they set the juggernaut in train. However, as one Brussels-based accountant told me last week: "We do seem to have just annoyed a lot of people."



ROBERT BRUCE

Public Finance, Martin Evans, the policy director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants — CIPFA, the public sector accounting body — suggests that as the ASB is the ultimate guardian of the UK's accounting rules "the Treasury cannot pick and choose which bits to apply and discard".

Rumour has it that the House of Commons Treasury Committee has also pricked up an ear at the sounds of battle and is thinking of calling for a hearing.

ROBERT BRUCE

High-flyer's prophecy

WHEN the proposed merger of KPMG and Ernst & Young was announced last year, Nick Land, E&Y's senior partner, produced what is now seen to be the only accurate prophecy of the day. Asked who would be the winners in the merger, he answered — with endearing simplicity — "the airlines".

But he was absolutely right. One senior Deloitte & Touche partner, who was

ENTER BUSINESS

flying to New York late last week, reports that almost the entire aircraft was filled with people from the Big Six firms. But all was not bad. "We had a very good time indeed," he said.

Numbers game

IN THE European Parliament last week Edward Kellett-Bowman, the Conservative Euro-MP for Ichen, Test and Avon, made

an impassioned attack on the large accountancy firms. He urged the European Commission, in its deliberations over the proposed mega-mergers in the profession, to fix an absolute limit on the number of top firms, for example.

This should not be allowed to fall below a minimum of five, he insisted. He is well placed to argue this. At least one of his children works for a current Big Six firm.

Treasury trouble

MORE trouble for the Treasury. The assertion mooted by the Accounting Standards Board late last year that the Private Finance Initiative looked very similar to the old off-balance sheet financing scam, which the ASB managed — with Government encouragement — to stamp out in the early 1990s, is gaining support.

In tomorrow's edition of

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

20 P

This Saturday, make a date with the Saturday Times, including the new 100-page glossy magazine.

سنة زامن لامل

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main financial table with columns for various sectors: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS GENERAL, RETAILERS FOOD, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and others. Includes a 'FUND' section with SHORTS, LOWS, and UNDATED categories.

Advertisement for First Direct: why not bank for free? for 24 hour telephone banking 0800 24 24 24. Member HSBC Group.

Vertical text on the left margin, including 'ed' at the top and 'TMS' in a box.

Vertical text on the right margin, including 'S' at the top.

هكذا من لامل

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes various categories like ASSET MANAGEMENT, EQUITY, and FIXED INCOME.

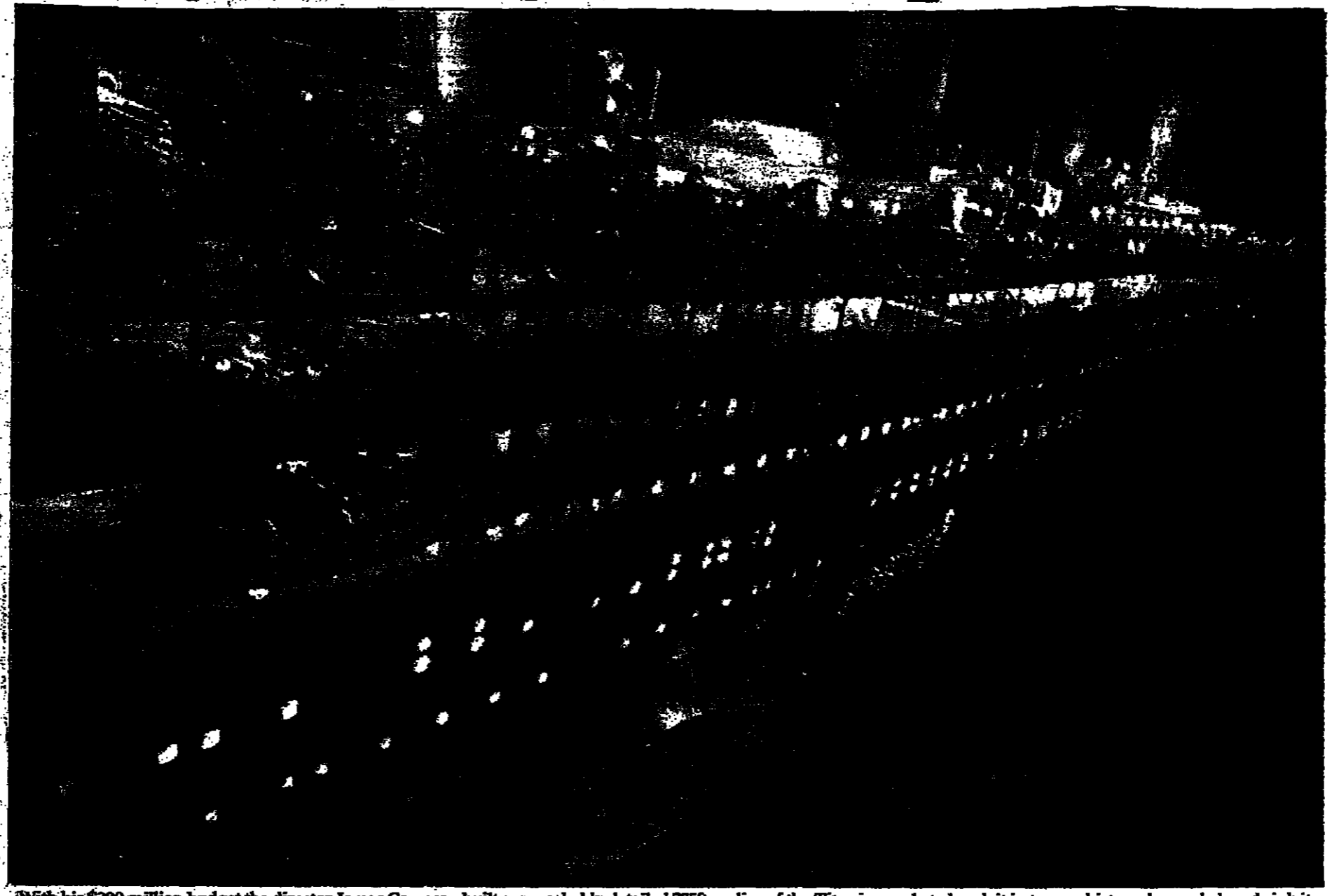
Advertisement for 'make more money by phone' with a 78.5% interest rate and contact number 0345 26 36 46.

Vertical advertisements on the right side of the page, including 'Belfast £69', 'British Midland', and 'Major USA'.

Tragedy replayed as epic spectacle

NEW MOVIES:
Titanic has the power to 'shake us and touch the soul', writes Geoff Brown

Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio are smooching up deck and down on a large ocean liner, the *Titanic*, by name, as it slides across the Atlantic. She's Rose DeWitt Bukater, an upper-class Philadelphia girl journeying back with her mother to a financially advantageous marriage. He's Jack Dawson, a hobo with an artistic gift, a ready smile and no thought to tomorrow, travelling in steerage.



With his \$200 million budget the director James Cameron built a remarkably detailed 75ft replica of the *Titanic*—only to break it in two, as history demanded, and sink it

They stand at the prow before the setting sun; they run full tilt through the engine room; they make love in a plush car stowed in the hold, and raise the ire of ship society, especially Rose's attendant fiancé (Billy Zane). Rose and Jack are young and attractive, but their billing and cooing does take some time. "Come on, iceberg," you feel like saying. "Hurry up!"

"I'm the king of the world!" But there is only so much cocksure grinning one movie can stand, especially if there is nothing much in the script to back up the dental display.

Winslet's character is more substantial: she has a mother (Frances Fisher), to rebuke, a fiancé to joust with, inner fires to ignite. Yet as the waters inside and the ship slides down, you beg the film to find someone other than this Edwardian Romeo and Juliet.

Titanic
Odeon Leicester Square, 12, 195 mins
Intermittently overwhelming epic

The Winner
ABC Shaftesbury Ave. 15, 84 mins
Tiresome tale of losers

I Went Down
Warner West End, 15, 106 mins
Irish gangster caper

Breaking Up
Warner West End, 15, 105 mins
Trivial comedy

Das Boot: The Director's Cut
Plaza, 15, 209 mins
The 1981 U-boat drama sails again

Lucie Aubrac
Curzon Mayfair, 12, 115 mins
Deadly dull drama of the French Resistance

Up 'n' Under
Odeon West End, 12, 98 mins
No goals scored in John Godber's rugby comedy

all for Rose and Jack. It is because of Gloria Stuart, not Winslet or DiCaprio.

Other films imagine themselves, wrongly, to be works of substance. Lucie Aubrac, directed by Claude Berri, navigates a true-life drama of the French Resistance with such dull restraint that you want to scream. If only the characters did too. But Carole Bouquet is maddeningly composed as the wife engineering her husband's escape from the Gestapo, and co-star Daniel Auteuil is too noble to make any fuss.

ore lovely

SNAP VERDICT

'An ocean of nonsense'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

TITANIC
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: A clumsily scripted movie with atrocious dialogue. The one thing that you would expect of this movie is spectacle. Yet curiously, it seems no more spectacular than an episode of *Emmerdale*.

Carl Clark, 19: Remember that silly Tom Cruise movie, *Far and Away*? Well, this has exactly the same story but it's set at sea. The only good thing about the film is Kate Winslet, who reigns supreme in an ocean of nonsense.

Laura Brook, 19: Big is not necessarily better. This movie left me cold — like ice. *Titanic* certainly doesn't live up to the hype.

Emma Ralph, 19: Leonardo DiCaprio looks like a sprout.

I WENT DOWN
Leslie: The actor Peter McDonald makes one of the most accomplished screen debuts I have ever seen. Carl: A gangster movie with quirky humour. Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* revisited.

Laura: Peter McDonald is exceptional and quite brilliant. A very gentle comedy thriller — I really loved it.

Emma: Yet another *Pulp Fiction* wannabe. Boring. It's about time film-makers broke free from Tarantino's influence.

BREAKING UP
Leslie: Neither Russell Crowe nor Salma Hayek is attractive enough or interesting enough to keep your attention for 90 minutes.

Carl: A romantic comedy that is neither romantic nor comedic. One to avoid at all costs.

Laura: An early contender for worst film of the year. It will please no-one.

Emma: Less entertaining than watching paint dry. Stay away — it's not worth wasting your money.

DANIEL AUTEUIL
inspiring piece
A remarkable tale
and courage

Aubrac

CLAUDE BERRI

JANUARY 22 1998

THE TIMES PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Week end Burberrys

OF LONDON

Tell someone you love them in 12 words or more...

Once again, The Times offers the most romantic environment for your Valentine's Day messages. Through our exclusive arrangement with Burberrys we will send the one you love a bottle of *Week end* fragrance, for men/women, together with a card which reads: "Look for your message in The Times on Valentine's Day."

In addition the most original Valentine message published will win a romantic 7-day holiday for two to Florida (to be taken before the 30th June 1998). There will also be two runner-up prizes of a case of champagne.

£22	£29
£26	£35
£30	£39
£34	£43

All prices inc. VAT

Your Details Name: _____ Address (home/office): _____ Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Your Valentine's Details Name: _____ Address (home/office): _____ Postcode: _____

Tick box if you would like to send a gift

Send my cheque/PO for £ _____ made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd.

Or debit my credit card by £ _____ Card expiry date: _____

"GORGEOUS TO LOOK AT, ... SEXY, INTELLIGENT ... UTTERLY ABSORBING."

HELENA BONHAM CARTER DESERVES TO WIN AN OSCAR. PLEASE DON'T MISS IT.

"SUMPTUOUS, SMART AND FULL OF GLAMOUR ... SORTLEY'S FILM IS AS DEEP AND DIRTY AS THE GRAND VIZ." THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

"THE YEAR'S MOST POWERFUL PIECE OF CINEMA UPON CELLULOID." THE GUARDIAN

HELENA BONHAM CARTER LINUS ROACHE ALISON ELLIOTT

THE WINGS OF THE DOVE

NOW SHOWING

ENDS TODAY

STARS TOMORROW

"MISS IT IF YOU DARE!"

"BRILLIANT" "A TRIUMPH"

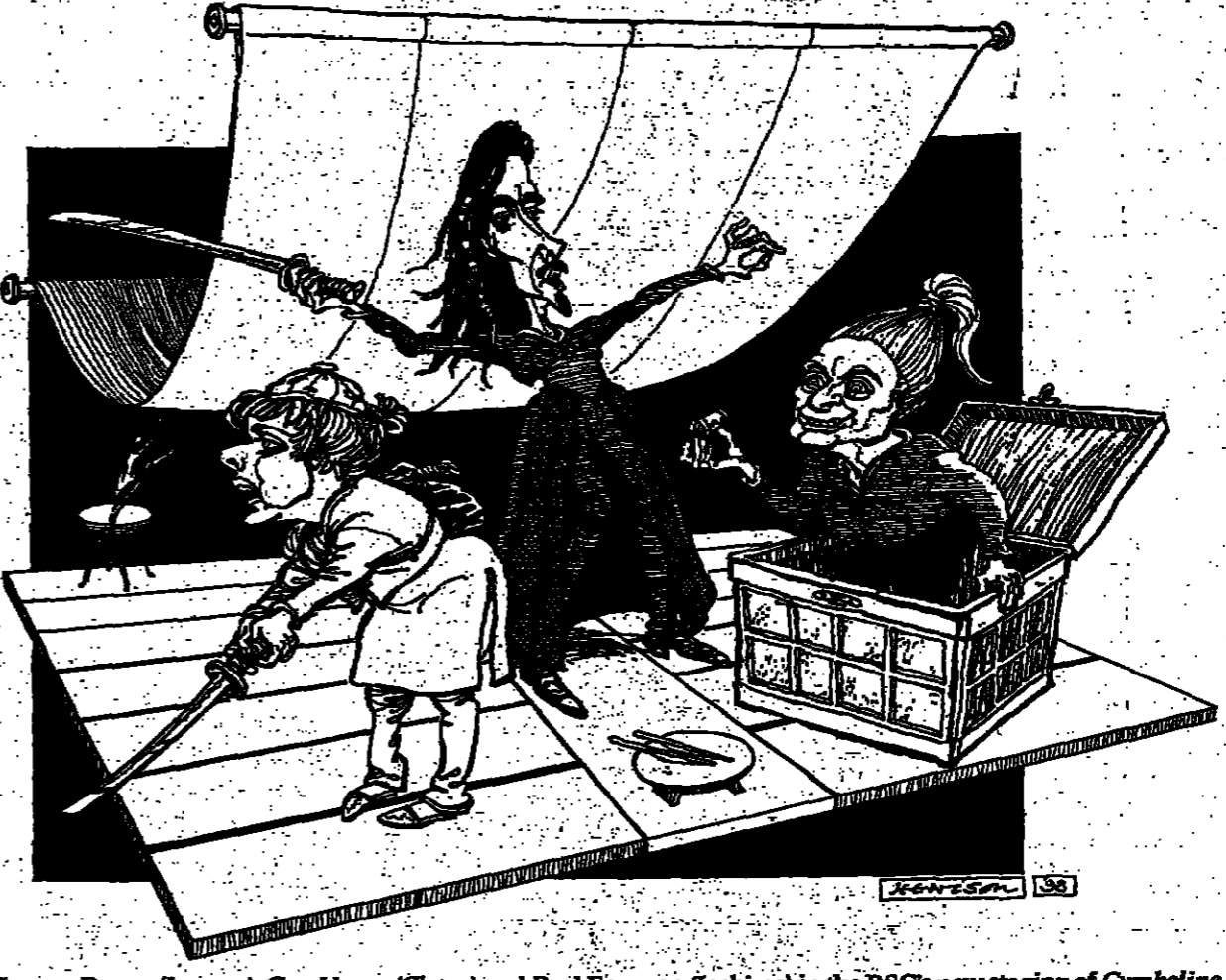
THE GUARDIAN UN CUT

BOOGIE NIGHTS

MARK WAHLBERG JULIANNE MOORE BURT REYNOLDS
DON CHEADLE JOHN C. REILLY WILLIAM H. MACY HEATHER GRAHAM

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW

Preposterous pleasures



Joanna Pearce (Imogen), Guy Henry (Cloten) and Paul Freeman (Iachimo) in the RSC's new staging of Cymbeline

This was the play that provoked Shaw to declare that, with the one exception of Homer, Shakespeare was the writer he most despised when he compared his mind to his own. It was, he said, stage trash: "vulgar, foolish, offensive, indecent and exasperating beyond tolerance".

Why? The play is melodramatic and it is preposterous. As Shaw gleefully pointed out, it contains a scene in which the heroine awakens from supposed death to find herself clutching a headless corpse, as he didn't, the complications surrounding this event take 20 minutes of last-act explanation to clear up. Yet in Cymbeline there are many of those elements that were to make Shakespeare's other late romances so distinctive: a heroine of surpassing virtue, a heroic father, evil in high places, desperate separations, glorious reconciliations, a state visit from Mount Olympus, pardon, joy.

white figures cluster round a flame to hear a soothsayer relate the key facts. That instantly establishes tone, mood and genre. It occurs in England and Italy circa AD10; but there is no wood, no clanking Roman armour, no Boadicea chic. Below the giant sail that curves above a bare stage, we get Confucian figures in black skullcaps and, at one point, what seem to be two Little Maids from school tripping

along, presumably in search of their triplet. Even the Romans' red robes owe less to the staves and flags in the big battle to the Javanese silhouettes behind it. It is eccentric, but the result is a kind of exotic simplicity that suits the play. And even Shaw had to admit that the play has some fine characters. There is Imogen, "an enchanting person" vastly spunkier than

the Italian cad, "yellow lachimo", and Edward Petherbridge bringing a fumed-up vulnerability to the most unwritten of all Shakespeare's title characters, this is an invigorating reclamation of a tricky play. Only Shaw would have remained unconvinced. Poor old egehead, he lacked the necessary blend of fun-and-wonder.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE With Paul Freeman playing

LONDON THE DAY I STOOD STILL: National Centre for Learning Disabilities... PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA: The orchestra's winter season gets under way as the excellent Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin joins his compatriot Vladimir Ashkenazy...

TODAY'S CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves... in the play, Young for Spire, Theatre Company White Theatre, Brompton Arts Centre...

GLASGOW: Rising star on the musical firmament 22-year-old Daniel Harding conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in a performance of The Rite of Spring...



Daniel Harding conducts the RSO in Glasgow

BRACKNELL: Janet Suttan directs The Snow Palace, a new piece of contemporary drama about the dramatic and political playwright P. Sarsis...

ELSEWHERE BRACKNELL: Janet Suttan directs The Snow Palace... ALLEGRIA: The Ceque de Sot returns. Acrobats, contortionists and dancers bring a new piece of circus...

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy King's assessment of theatre showing in London... HOUSE FULL, returns only... SEATS AT ALL PRICES

THE MYSTERIES: Kane Mitchell's five and a half hour production, drawn from medieval plays... BATHURST NIGHT: World premiere of Southey's last musical...

Life stuck in a groove

A suicidal DJ is master of ceremonies at a roadshow that time forgot. He sits beside an old record deck playing cheesy Hawaiian music at three revolutions per minute and murmurs odd news items into his microphone in a velvet voice.

On an individual note

AS PROGRAMME changes go, this came exceptionally late. It was not until David Newton arrived at the piano that we learnt that his partner for the evening, the saxophonist Alan Barnes, had been delayed in Germany.

JAZZ CLIVE DAVIS... The trilled music gives rise to some exquisitely awful comedy. In a section of the show, chalked up on the blackboard as "On the Rag", the pantomime horse, naked apart from his head and hooves, drags himself in circles around the floor...

NEW RELEASES BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN: Eisenstein's unmissable classic about a Russian sailor's mutiny... BOOGIE NIGHTS (18): Dynamic epic about the porn movie industry...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (w) on release across the country... 4214 Marble Arch (0181-315 4214) Shelia Collette (0181-315 4215)

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s... STARSHIP TROOPERS (15): Brash soldiers battle alien bugs...

ART GALLERIES JEAN-CLAUDE JANET FRONTS ON NEW... OPERA & BALLET THE ROYAL OPERA... WEST LONDON Antiques & Fine Art Fair

THEATRES ADELPHI... CHICAGO... AMY'S VIEW... THE RIGHT SIZE... kit & the widow

COMEDY THEATRE... THE WOMAN IN BLACK... AN INSPECTOR CALLS... THE FRONT PAGE

DURRY LANE THEATRE ROYAL... MISS SAIGON... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... ENTERTAINMENTS

LONDON PALLADIUM... SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... ENTERTAINMENTS

PALACE THEATRE... LES MISÉRABLES... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... ENTERTAINMENTS

QUEEN'S THEATRE... SHOPPING AND FASHION... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... ENTERTAINMENTS

STRADE THEATRE... "BUDDY"... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... ENTERTAINMENTS

NEW CLASSICAL CDs... ENTERTAINMENTS... 298,000 readers of this section go to the theatre at least once every 2/3 months.

Hard act to follow

FEW regimes can have lent themselves quite so readily to satire as the risibly misnamed German Democratic Republic. Few satires, at any rate, have set about their subject with more gleefully savage abandon than this novel by a writer whose childhood and adolescence were spent under that regime...

Ian Brunskill HEROES LIKE US By Thomas Bragg Harvill, £9.99 ISBN 1 85464 403 3

is dreary, restricted and, above all, very hygienic. Fame, distinction and service to mankind boil down in the end to a job in the Accounts Department of the Press and Postal Subscriptions Service...

Plucked one day from perceived obscurity, Ulitzsch secures his longed-for place in history when his participation in a bizarre medical experiment not only enables him to save the life of East Germany's head of state...

Just chips off the old block

Is modern life rubbish? Sadie Plant encounters artificial intelligence

Humans are no longer alone with their thoughts. A wave of recent developments in computing, microbiology, electronic, telecommunications and a vast range of interconnected fields has extended the possibility of intelligent activity to thinking machines...

THE CAMBRIDGE QUINTET A Work of Scientific Speculation By John L. Casti Little, Brown, £16.99 ISBN 0 316 04281 9

COMPUTER ONE By Warwick Collins Marion Boyars, £15.99 ISBN 0 7145 3033 0

DARWIN AMONG THE MACHINES By George Dyson Allen Lane, £20 ISBN 0 7139 9225 0



Alan Turing: computing with nature

out of the action with what Casti describes as 'the stoicism typical of the British serving class' and a few references to post-war Britain...

ments will probably be shared by many readers too. Casti has organised a satisfying meal.

Rather than the fictional beginnings of machine intelligence, Warwick Collins looks forward to a fictional end in his novel Computer One...

Collins thinks the human species is sleepwalking towards this disaster. Casti, in the post-script to his fiction, sees machine intelligence emerging as something very different...

It falls to a builder of kayaks, George Dyson, to consider the broader implications of machine intelligence...

computer culture - but the fresh and inquiring spirit of Darwin Among the Machines may be due to the fact that he is neither a mathematician nor a storyteller by trade...

If The Cambridge Quintet interrogates a quasi-fictional past with Computer One projects into the future, Darwin Among the Machines is more akin to a history of the present...

A noticeable absence at Casti's party was the figure of Norbert Wiener, whose Cybernetics, Communication and Control in Animal and Machine was published just before the fictional meal took place.

Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones: Digital Women and the New Technoculture is published by Fourth Estate, priced £14.99.

Who says other names don't smell as sweet?

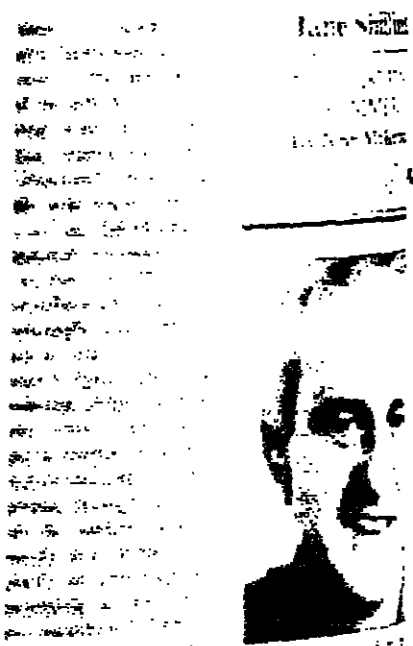
If the Queen inexplicably forgot your name in the New Year's Honours List then the next best accolade was to be among the 1,300 new entrants in the latest Who's Who...

Compton Miller WHO'S WHO ABC Black, £105 ISBN 0 7136 4747 7

her birthday as May 12, 1942 when her birth certificate states that she was born in 1937. Both comic Ken Dodd and Harrods' chairman Mohamed al-Fayed top four years off their respective 1927 and 1929 birth years...



Season's end brings a all from love



Season's end brings a all from love

Advertisement for 'Sinclair THE TAX' with various icons and text.

A country reclaims its right to exist



Russian poster of 1952 depicting Ukraine's grain wealth

In the Soviet aftermath Ukraine came to international attention as an uncertain small nation with nuclear weapons, suddenly in possession of such symbolic Russian properties as the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea...

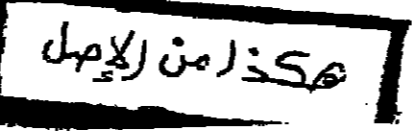
Lesley Chamberlain BORDERLAND A Journey Through the History of the Ukraine By Anna Reid Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99 ISBN 0 297 81818 X

Ukraine's history, and its most invented heroes. A wise and generous government in Kiev would give her a medal. She writes the kind of history that has recently been called 'social memory'...

Virtue out of Vice

A YOUNG leader, a product of the television age, wins a stunning election victory. To one side of him sits a snarling veteran, an infinitely more accomplished old-style politician...

Philip Delves Broughton MUTUAL CONTEMPT Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the feud that Defined a Decade By Jeff Shesol Norton, £23.50 ISBN 0 393 04878 X



Bulls, bullets and other tribal imperatives

Should you ever receive an invitation from the Karamojong... a tribe of cattle-herders and cattle-raiders in Uganda...

We must all await with trepidation the day that Uganda is finally invited to enter the ever-expanding Eurovision Song Contest.

gripping problem who has told many bad jokes but keeps advancing... Joe Joseph

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Karamoja people would die and we would be like dogs once again. We thank the gun for what we have...

passivist, though, might feel unable to completely forget the fact that this sludge was just a colon away from being a cowpat.

stomach. It's the surest way they'll ever find of keeping cowpats on bay.

deficit to \$8bn

outs criticised

elves trust plan

for SFI Group

oup loses £2m

I quittable up

bs for Ireland

sounds warning

cuts dividend

men

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Business Breakfast, Breakfast News, and various documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Sports, News, and documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Sports, News, and documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Sports, News, and documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Sports, News, and documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

Table with columns: BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5. Lists TV programs like Sports, News, and documentaries.

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+Comes... the number one TV programme...

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Gene Hackman in The Conversation (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

Table listing Sky TV channel packages: SKY 1, SKY 2, SKY 3, SKY 4, SKY 5, SKY 6, SKY 7, SKY 8, SKY 9, SKY 10, SKY 11, SKY 12, SKY 13, SKY 14, SKY 15, SKY 16, SKY 17, SKY 18, SKY 19, SKY 20, SKY 21, SKY 22, SKY 23, SKY 24, SKY 25, SKY 26, SKY 27, SKY 28, SKY 29, SKY 30, SKY 31, SKY 32, SKY 33, SKY 34, SKY 35, SKY 36, SKY 37, SKY 38, SKY 39, SKY 40, SKY 41, SKY 42, SKY 43, SKY 44, SKY 45, SKY 46, SKY 47, SKY 48, SKY 49, SKY 50.

Table listing Satellite and Cable services: SKY SPORTS 3, SKY SPORTS 4, SKY SPORTS 5, SKY SPORTS 6, SKY SPORTS 7, SKY SPORTS 8, SKY SPORTS 9, SKY SPORTS 10, SKY SPORTS 11, SKY SPORTS 12, SKY SPORTS 13, SKY SPORTS 14, SKY SPORTS 15, SKY SPORTS 16, SKY SPORTS 17, SKY SPORTS 18, SKY SPORTS 19, SKY SPORTS 20, SKY SPORTS 21, SKY SPORTS 22, SKY SPORTS 23, SKY SPORTS 24, SKY SPORTS 25, SKY SPORTS 26, SKY SPORTS 27, SKY SPORTS 28, SKY SPORTS 29, SKY SPORTS 30, SKY SPORTS 31, SKY SPORTS 32, SKY SPORTS 33, SKY SPORTS 34, SKY SPORTS 35, SKY SPORTS 36, SKY SPORTS 37, SKY SPORTS 38, SKY SPORTS 39, SKY SPORTS 40, SKY SPORTS 41, SKY SPORTS 42, SKY SPORTS 43, SKY SPORTS 44, SKY SPORTS 45, SKY SPORTS 46, SKY SPORTS 47, SKY SPORTS 48, SKY SPORTS 49, SKY SPORTS 50.

